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### Crown Prince to visit Moscow next month

AMMAN (AFP) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan will make a short working visit to Moscow on September 2, Jordanian officials said Friday. Prince Hassan will hold discussions with Russian officials about efforts to overcome obstacles blocking the Middle East peace process as well as the development of bilateral relations, an official said. After Moscow, the Crown Prince will head to Prague where he will meet Czech President Vaclav Havel, who in turn is due to make an official visit to Jordan on September 20.

# Jordan Times

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## King issues decree dissolving Parliament starting Monday

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A Royal Decree was issued Friday terminating the 12th Parliament as of Monday Sept. 1, 1997.

"We, King Hussein of Jordan, in accordance with Paragraph 3 of Article 34 of the Constitution, order that the Lower House of Parliament be dissolved as of Monday Sept. 1, 1997," the decree stated.

Parliament has been in recess since a Royal Decree issued on March 19 terminated the session, despite an attempt by opposition deputies in May to call for an extraordinary summer session to discuss amendments to the Press and Publications Law and two other laws.

Another Royal Decree last month ordered that parliamentary elections be held in accordance with the provisions of the law, while a government announcement on Aug. 5 stated that elections will be held on Nov. 4. The government opened a dialogue with representa-

tives of Islamist groups and opposition parties after their intent to boycott the elections was announced, but no conclusive results have been reported to date.

The government has conducted two sessions with the opposition, one with the five pro-poll opposition parties, and one with the pro-poll National Constitutional Party (NCP), which was formed by the merger of nine parties in May.

The five pro-poll opposition parties ask that the government introduce measures to ease the tension with the opposition groups, while the Islamists seek a change of the one person, one vote election system and a repeal of the Press and Publications Law, both preconditions for their participation in the elections.

Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali has pledged free, fair, and democratic parliamentary elections and called on all eligible citizens to exercise their right of electing representatives to the Lower House of Parliament.

His Majesty King Hussein



endorsed the government's call during his tour of various governorates this month. At a public rally in Ajloun last Wednesday, King Hussein urged Jordanians to go to the polls on Nov. 4 to elect their representatives, saying whoever seeks to protect the national interests has to contribute to its democratic process.

As part of the preparations

for the general elections, the Ministry of Interior has finalized a voter registration list.

A report from the ministry Friday said Minister of Interior Nahir Rashid chaired a meeting Thursday for government to review issues connected with the preparations and urged them to offer facilities to ensure fair and free elections.

## Albright takes plunge with Mideast trip; Rubin plays down expectations

She is not a magician, she is a realist — spokesman

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright will make her first official visit to the Middle East starting September 9 to try to restore trust between Israel and the Palestinians, her spokesman said on Friday.

The trip, expected to focus on steps towards Middle East peace, will include Israel, the Palestinian territories, Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Saudi Arabia, spokesman James Rubin told a State Department briefing.

Mr. Rubin played down expectations that the trip would achieve instant results but said the U.S. saw enough progress on security cooperation to justify Ms. Albright making the trip, expected to last about a week.

Arab and European states have criticized Ms. Albright's long delay in visiting the Middle East, traditionally one of the top priorities in U.S. foreign policy. Her predecessor, Warren Christopher, visited the region some 20 times in four years.

One incentive for U.S. engagement was the damage done to the peace process when suicide bombers killed 16 people in a Jerusalem market on July 30.

Mr. Rubin, explaining the decision to go, said: "Some progress has been made, and there is a trend in the right direction. There's been some lifting of the closure [of Palestinian territories] by the Israelis. There's been movement on the security track. The trend is in the right direction."

"The trip is about trying to build back the peace process from the abyss it has been in. She is not a magician. She is a realist but she believes it is

time to take the first trip to talk to the leaders on their own turf," he added.

"Clearly the peace process is in trouble... there is a crisis of confidence. The secretary's trip is designed to begin to address that lack of confidence. But the problems between the two parties are complex, they are deeply entrenched and they will not be solved by one trip. Secretary Albright is a lot of things, but she is also a realist... and she has quite realistic expectations about what can be resolved on this trip."

Ms. Albright spoke to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat on Friday in preparation for the trip, Mr. Rubin said.

Apart from the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, Ms. Albright will also consult with U.S. allies on the security of the Gulf and Iran and Iraq, Mr. Rubin said.

In Syria, she will try to revive the sporadic negotiations with Israel which came to a standstill early last year.

The two countries negotiated for more than four years over an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, occupied in 1967, but reached no agreement.

Israel's former negotiator with Syria, Itamar Rabinovich, said on Thursday that Israel agreed in principle more than three years ago to discuss pulling out from the Heights (see story on page 12).

Mr. Rubin said that contrary to some media speculation, U.S. Middle East envoy Dennis Ross would not go to the region in advance of Ms. Albright's trip.

### Settlers, Palestinians scuffle

MAON, West Bank (AFP) — Scuffles broke out Friday when Palestinian villagers confronted Jewish settlers trying to seize land near their settlement outside the West Bank town of Hebron, witnesses said. During the fistfuffs, a settler guard drew his pistol which was seized from him by a Palestinian. The Palestinian returned the firearm when Israeli soldiers arrived on the scene and broke up the scuffles, witnesses said. The Palestinians from Yatta village said they own the land which the Israelis claim for the expansion of their settlement. Meanwhile, a car driven by a Jewish settler overturned when it was hit by stones thrown by Palestinians outside the settlement of Ofra near the West Bank town of Ramallah. The car's occupants were lightly injured, Israel Radio said.

### Albright calls European counterparts

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Secretary of State Madeleine Albright called her counterparts from France, Britain and Russia to brief them on her upcoming trip to the Middle East, the State Department said Friday. Ms. Albright "tried to get their advice and support in trying to promote peace in the region," State Department spokesman James Rubin said. In her talks with French Foreign Minister Hubert Vedrine, British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook and Russian Foreign Minister Yuryevy Primakov, Ms. Albright presented her itinerary and "what messages she will be carrying in general terms," he said. "Each of those leaders in their own way has some influence on the process, and we would like to encourage the maximum support from our allies and friends to try to encourage and put leverage on the leaders in the region," Mr. Rubin said.

## Paris says Washington too passive in Mideast

PARIS (R) — French Foreign Minister Hubert Vedrine criticized the United States on Thursday for being too passive in the Middle East peace process and said Paris wanted to take a more active role in reviving peace talks.

"The United States cannot remain passive, as it has in the past few months, because... the peace process cannot live without encouragement from the United States and the Europeans and notably, for historic reasons, from France," Mr. Vedrine said in a radio interview.

"That has not been the case from the American side these past few months. We must correct this," Mr. Vedrine told Europe 1 Radio.

Mr. Vedrine's wish that Paris take on a higher profile in the Middle East mirrored remarks made the evening before by President Jacques Chirac at a conference of French ambassadors.

But in blaming Washington for the peace process impasse, Mr. Vedrine went beyond Mr. Chirac, who had not criticized the U.S. role in the region.

Instead, Mr. Chirac had stressed the need for France to coordinate its efforts with Washington.

Mr. Vedrine sounded grimmer than Mr. Chirac concerning the status of the peace negotiations.

"We are in an extremely serious situation, the peace process has stopped, and there is an absence of hope, an absence of perspective, and Palestinian people who have been pushed into hopelessness," he said in the radio interview.

"There will be no solution to the Middle East until there is security, until there is a recognized and stable political agreement," he said.

Mr. Chirac has long advocated a more active role for Paris in Middle East diplomacy.

## Iraq awaiting first shipments via Syria

DUBAI (AFP) — Iraqi Trade Minister Mohammad Mehdi Saleh said Friday his country would begin importing goods via Syrian ports for the first time in at least 15 years.

Mr. Saleh, who is currently in Damascus, told the emirati newspaper Al Itihad that a first shipment of 50,000 tonnes of sugar from France was expected at Syria's Mediterranean port of Tartous and would then be transported to Iraq, but he gave no timetable.

He said he expected trade between Syria and Iraq to grow, with contracts worth \$50 million to buy Syrian merchandise already signed.

The two countries, which are ruled by rival branches of the Baath Party, broke off ties when Syria backed Iraq at the start of the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war. Their border was closed in 1982.

But relations have warmed considerably in the past three months with an exchange of commercial delegations and the first contracts between the two countries in 17 years.

Mr. Saleh arrived in Syria Wednesday for the opening of the Damascus International Fair, which his country is taking part in for the first time since ties were broken.

A Syrian trade delegation ended a five-day visit to Baghdad Wednesday after signing contracts to sell food under the U.N. oil-for-food deal which allows Iraq to export limited amounts of oil to buy humanitarian supplies.

In August, the U.N. authorized Iraq, which has been under a strict international embargo since it invaded Kuwait in 1990, to import merchandise via its border with Syria.



PRINCE FIRAS APPOINTED KING'S HEALTH SECRETARY: A Royal Decree was issued Friday appointing His Royal Highness Prince Firas Ben Ra'd as health secretary for His Majesty King Hussein at the higher grade, as of September 1, 1997.

## 200 killed in new Algeria massacre

SIDI MOUSSA (AFP) — Algeria's seemingly endless spiral of violence reached new horrific proportions Friday with more than 200 people reported slaughtered overnight by suspected Islamists.

If confirmed, it would be the deadliest such massacre since Algeria erupted into violence after disputed elections five years ago. There was no official confirmation of the killings.

The massacre took place in the Sidi Moussa district south of Algiers, local residents said.

An AFP photographer who went to one of the villages in the district, 20 kilometres south of the capital, saw several dozen bodies piled up.

"The bodies were in an empty field, covered with blankets," the photographer said. "You could see limbs protruding from under the covers."

He said ambulances were expected to recover the bodies of the victims.

Many government and military officials rushed to the site of the massacre which was sealed off by troops and firefighters who were out in force.

Residents, some of whom pleaded for news of their relatives, said the victims were either shot or had their throat

slit.

One villager said that more than 300 assailants swooped down on several farms in their region during the night while their victims slept.

The massacre comes following a series of killings and bomb blasts that have left more than 225 people dead since Sunday and have been blamed on Islamists, according to a partial toll.

The latest incident took place late Thursday when a bomb exploded in a crowded seaside cafe in Algiers's second city Oran leaving many people injured, witnesses contacted by telephone said.

They were unable to give a precise figure, but said the toll could be high because the cafe was full of customers when the bomb went off.

The device was hidden inside a parcel which three young men left in the Panorama cafe.

Oran, about 400 kilometres west of the capital Algiers, had so far been spared the kind of violence that has tormented much of the country.

The violence has been largely blamed on the Islamists although it is often difficult for the media to independently confirm the death tolls and to determine who is responsible.

## Israel shells U.N. peacekeepers in Lebanon to force their withdrawal

GHANDOURIYEH (AFP) — The Israeli army shelled a hill in south Lebanon Friday to prevent U.N. peacekeepers recovering the bodies of pro-Syrian guerrillas killed in a gunbattle with Israeli troops the previous day.

Israeli artillery gunners based in Qanitra, inside the Jewish state's so-called "security zone" in south Lebanon, fired three 155mm shells at a hill overlooking a valley where 15 Finnish U.N. soldiers were headed, an AFP correspondent reported.

The peacekeepers eventually withdrew to the nearby village of Ghandouriyeh. Twelve more missiles landed on the valley over the next hour.

The U.N. soldiers were trying to recover the bodies of four fighters from the Shi'ite Muslim Amal movement, who were killed Thursday in an Israeli ground operation outside the occupied zone according to Amal.

Two hours later, Israel's proxy South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia tried to recover

the bodies but were forced to withdraw under fire from Amal fighters.

A total of 40 shells were fired during a 30-minute battle between the SLA militiamen and Amal in the valley on the edge of the Israeli-occupied zone.

Bodies of anti-Israeli guerrillas have been used in the past as bargaining chips for the SLA to secure the release of its militiamen abducted by Hizbollah and other guerrilla groups.

Israel lost four soldiers dur-

ing Thursday's clashes in a vast brush fire started by artillery and air strikes by its own forces against the Amal guerrillas.

An Israeli officer accused the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) Friday of blocking efforts to rescue the four infantrymen burned alive in the fire, a charge rejected by UNIFIL spokesman Timur Goksel who in turn accused Israeli soldiers of forcing their way through a U.N. post at gunpoint.

## Russia warns Israel against dam project

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russia voiced concern Thursday about Israel's plan to build a dam on territory claimed by Syria, and urged the Israeli government to avoid putting "another obstacle" in the way of peace talks with Damascus.

Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Valery Nesterushkin said that if Israel went ahead with the project to build a reservoir dam on the Yarmouk River, "it would further aggravate the already tense atmosphere in Syrian-Israeli relations."

Damascus perceived the dam project in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights as "further confirmation of the present Israeli government's course of strengthening the occupation of the Golan," Ms. Nesterushkin said.

"Another obstacle is being raised blocking a resumption of Syrian-Israeli talks on the

generally accepted principle of land-for-peace.

"As a co-sponsor of the Middle East peace process, Russia calls on the Israeli government to reassess the decision and refrain from actions which are predetermining the outcome of talks," he said.

The U.S., the other co-sponsor of the peace process launched in Madrid in 1991, has also voiced concern about the dam project. U.S. State Department spokesman James Rubin said the site for the dam had not been decided, but warned that if Israel were considering building it on disputed territory, Washington would not approve of the move. Jordanian and Israeli officials Wednesday denied the joint Jordanian-Israeli dam will be constructed on a territory claimed by Syria.

## Shamir describes Netanyahu as liar

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Former Israeli Premier Yitzhak Shamir lashed out at Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Friday for not being sufficiently nationalist, calling him a "liar and an opportunist" who has no principles whatsoever.

Mr. Shamir, 82, who belongs like Mr. Netanyahu to the right-wing Likud Party, said in a television interview that his successor "is incapable of keeping any promises to his voters."

"Bibi [Mr. Netanyahu's nickname] has no principles. He's fragile and caves in under the slightest pressure and sometimes gives way to panic," Mr. Shamir said.

He accused Mr. Netanyahu of wanting to "compromise" on Eretz-Israel, the Biblical concept of Israel taking in the

Palestinian territories, and branded him a "liar, an opportunist and an egotist."

Mr. Shamir, who served as prime minister from 1983 to 1992, backed Mr. Netanyahu in elections last year but has since sniped at him non-stop for not totally abandoning the autonomy agreement with the Palestinians.

He said in the interview, "the Arabs never change, they don't want peace and they will be like that for generations to come."

"There are no moderate Arabs, with the exception of Anwar Sadat," the former Egyptian president who signed peace with Israel in 1979. "Human life is valued far less by the Arabs than by the Jews, and that is why we must keep our swords by our side," he said.



## Israeli army demolishes homes in bedouin village

JERICHO (AFP) — A large force of Israeli soldiers tore down the homes of six bedouin families in a village in the northern West Bank on Thursday, witnesses said.

Several hundred soldiers and a number of bulldozers entered the small bedouin farming village of Farush Beit Dajjan on the edge of the Jordan Valley north of Jericho and tore down one concrete house and five shacks, the witnesses said.

Soldiers hit the Palestinian representative to the joint security liaison office, Youssef Lafi, who had tried to stop the demolition, and arrested one bedouin.

Youssef Abu Awad, who resisted when they tore down his shack, liaison sources said. The soldiers also wrecked a dozen animal pens and storage shacks.

A total of 52 people were put out of their homes, including the 15-member family of Kanaan Mohammad Kanaan, owner of the concrete house.

"This is brutal and has no justification. They just want to expel us from this area so they can expand their settlements. But I will never leave my home. I will rebuild it over and over if necessary," Mr. Kanaan, 47, told Agence

France Presse.

The soldiers brought a court order for the demolition of the homes, saying they were built illegally on land not owned by the bedouin.

But the Palestinian liaison office said it had put forward documents proving the families' ownership of the area.

Farush Beit Dajjan, a village of 1,200 residents, has been targeted frequently by Israeli house demolition campaigns, the last time in May when around seven shacks were torn down.

The village lies in the Faria valley, some 40 kilometres north of Jericho, one

of the most fertile regions in the West Bank which is surrounded by several Jewish settlements.

In the past month, Israel has launched a campaign to tear down Palestinian homes built without legal permits. Israeli authorities rarely issue such permits to Palestinians even to allow the expansion of existing communities.

Israeli authorities have demolished at least 55 homes in the West Bank and Arab east Jerusalem in the past four weeks, according to the Palestinian local administration ministry.

## Iraqi minister visits Syria

DAMASCUS (AFP) — Iraqi Trade Minister Mohammad Mahdi Saleh has arrived in Syria for a surprise visit to represent Baghdad at the Damascus International Fair for the first time in 17 years.

Mr. Saleh arrived late Wednesday at the border post of Al Tanaf, which was reopened to businessmen from the two neighbouring countries in June after a 15-year closure.

The Damascus Fair, which was set to open Thursday, is being attended by an official Iraqi delegation for the first time since Syria and Iraq broke off ties in 1980.

Mr. Saleh told the Syrian press that he will also meet officials in Damascus to discuss "Syria's capacity to export food and pharmaceutical products to Iraq" in line with a U.N. oil-for-food deal.

He said a Syrian trade delegation, which ended a five-day visit to Baghdad on Wednesday, had signed contracts to sell food under the U.N. deal which allows Iraq to export limited amounts of oil to finance purchases of humanitarian supplies.

Saleh is only the second Iraqi minister to visit Syria since 1980. The industry and energy minister visited Damascus last November.

The two countries, which are ruled by rival branches of the Baath Party, broke off ties when Syria backed Iran at the start of the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war. Their border was closed in 1982.



Iraqi Trade Minister Mohammad Mahdi Saleh (right) shakes hands with his Saudi Arabian counterpart Ousama Ja'afar Al Faqih at the opening conference of the International Exhibition of Trade in Damascus Thursday (Reuters photo)

But ties have warmed considerably in the past three months with an exchange of commercial delegations and the first contracts between the two

countries in 17 years.

Syria is to take part for the first time in the Babylon Cultural Festival in Iraq next month.

## Palestinian broadcasting chief defends Holocaust denial

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) —

The Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation on Thursday defended a programme on official Palestinian Television in which the host and a guest said Jews profited from the Holocaust and inflated the number of victims.

A senior adviser to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu accused the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) of anti-Semitism.

"It is regrettable that an official outlet of the Palestinian (National) Authority has stooped to Holocaust denial, coupled with an

allusion to Jewish venality and greed," said the adviser, David Bar-Ilan.

Another issue was a cultural affairs programme aired earlier this week. One segment of the show included a discussion between the host, Mohammad Buji, and two Palestinian writers, Hussam Agha and Odeh Abu Aza.

The Holocaust came up in the context of violent acts by Israeli soldiers against Palestinians.

At one point, Mr. Buji said, according to a transcript provided by Mr. Bar-Ilan's office, "it is well known that every year the Jews exaggerate

what the Nazis did to them. They claim there were 6 million killed, but precise scientific research demonstrates that there were no more than 400,000."

Mr. Agha, the author, said according to the transcript, that Jews have "profited materially, spiritually, politically and economically from the talk about the Nazi killings."

"This investment is favourable to them and they view it as a profitable activity so they inflate the number of victims all the time," Mr. Agha was quoted as saying.

The chairman of the Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation, Radwan Abu Ayyash, confirmed the general content of the transcript, but said he did not know whether every word was quoted accurately.

Mr. Ayyash said the two men were entitled to express their views, and said he didn't consider the remarks offensive.

"I do not see in this anything against Jews or against anybody. The Israelis cannot prevent people from saying what they want," he said.

About 6 million Jews perished in the Nazi Holocaust during World War II.

## Report says Israel seeking Russian mediation in paying off debt to Iran

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) —

Israel is seeking Russian help in paying off a \$650 million debt to Iran, a daily reported Friday.

Israel incurred the debt to Iran during joint ownership of an oil company during the Shah's rule, the daily Yediot Ahronot said. The partnership was kept secret at the time, the paper said.

The company controlled a pipeline that ran 32 million tonnes of crude oil from the Israeli Red Sea port of Eilat to refineries in the coastal town

of Ashkelon and northern port city of Haifa for an annual profit of \$32 million, the report said.

Fearing the fall of the Shah during the last six months of his regime, Israel held back Iran's share of the company's profits, incurring the debt, Yediot said.

The debt has since grown to an estimated \$1 billion, the paper added. A few years ago, Israel sued Iran for the money through the Hague International Court.

Infrastructure Minister Ariel

Sharon brought up the possibility of Russian mediation in a meeting with Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin in June, Yediot said.

Israel seeks a solution in which Russia would pay off the debt to Iran and then collect the money from Israel, the paper said. The report did not give Russia's response to the proposal.

Government officials were not immediately available for comment on the report.

By paying off the debt, Israel hopes to improve its

relationship with Iran, which it holds responsible for the fate of Israeli airmen Ron Arad who was captured by Iranian-backed guerrillas in Lebanon in 1986.

Iran has also recently been making strenuous efforts to achieve a nuclear weapons capability and to acquire missiles capable of reaching Israel. In May, Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy urged Iranian President Mohammad Khatami to support Israeli-Arab peace and stop supporting terrorism.

MODI'IN, Israel (R) — Anton Beta came to Israel six months ago from Romania to clean streets at a construction site.

He left in August in a coffin, his lungs still filled with the industrial dust that killed him.

Although he complained of pain 10 days before he died, 53-year-old Beta never received a simple antibiotic that could have saved him. He developed pneumonia and died in a workers' caravan camp in central Israel.

"He was not treated at all," said Yehuda Hiss, director of Israel's Institute for Forensic Medicine. "This is why the infection developed and he reached the stage where he collapsed and died."

After his death, about 200 of Beta's co-workers held his body hostage in their ramshackle trailer home for nine hours to draw attention to working conditions they said were inhumane.

Some 250,000 foreign workers have streamed into Israel in the past four years — legally and illegally — as the country, battered by Palestinian suicide attacks, sought to replace cheap

Arab labour from the West Bank and Gaza.

Workers' rights organisations say foreigners, who speak little Hebrew or English, are easily and often abused by their employers. Many live in crowded shanties with no running water and are denied medical care.

One workers' advocacy group says it gets about 20 complaints daily from disgruntled labourers who have had their passports confiscated and pay withheld.

"I wish I stayed in Romania," said one 25-year-old landscaper.

"I have no right to talk and make jokes. I live in a place with no shower. I am Christian. But when I asked to go to church, they looked at me and said, 'it is better if you shut up,'" he said, covering his dirty blond hair with a bandanna.

More than 50 foreign workers have died in the past eight months accord-

ing to Israel's Health Ministry. They have died in work accidents, drownings and suicides. Some have drunk themselves to death.

Foreign workers are not entitled to national medical insurance, workers' rights groups say sick workers have been denied care and sent home because employers do not want to pay.

"(This one) died before they could get him on the plane," said Hanna Zohar of the Workers' Hotline, referring to Beta.

Officials at construction firm Ben-Yakar-Gat, where Beta worked, said they were not responsible for his death. The work agency that brought him over has agreed to pay \$10,000 to his family.

Israel's dilemma

While the import of workers once seemed a quick fix to Israel's security

## Foreign workers in Israel face despair

dilemma, Israelis now say foreign workers have brought crime to their cities and are threatening to stay for good.

Public Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani has campaigned to make life tougher for the workers by banning them from setting up health institutes, churches and taverns in what he described as an effort to pressure them to go home.

Israel has stepped up deportations of illegal foreigners and said it wants to fire some foreigners and rehire Palestinians.

But a July 30 double suicide attack that killed 16 people, including the two bombers in Jerusalem, and the subsequent Israeli entry ban on Palestinian workers, reinforced Israel's dependence on foreign labour.

Lured from their home countries with monthly wages of \$350-\$700, foreign workers arrive in Israel to find

they are expected to work 10- to 13-hour days, six or seven days a week.

The Israeli bosses promise a round-trip airfare, fat monthly paychecks, room and board, and medical insurance.

But Zhang, 41, who left a \$250-a-month job teaching English in China, has found nothing but despair.

He lives in a stone hovel with 40 other men, eats only the food his boss puts in front of him and says he hasn't been paid for 13 months of heavy labour.

Although Israeli labour laws regulating minimum wage, employment conditions and working hours apply to foreigners, workers often do not know their rights. About half of them go home penniless, Zohar said.

Those who have money find solace in cheap Israeli beer. Empty cans litter the streets of Modi'in — Israel's so-called "city of the future" — below

half-finished, stone apartments.

Workers seeking a little extra spending money sneak out of the construction sites to do odd jobs in their free time in the nearby garden suburb of Maccabim. Those caught by employers have been fired, deported and fined, said Zhang.

"We need toothpaste and soap, and some workers smoke and need cigarettes. But we are not allowed to go out," he said.

Zhang said he'd like to leave now, but employers have told him that if he goes, they will deduct his \$1,300 airline ticket from his wages.

His bosses have kept his salary, saying he can get the money only after he goes home after two full years of work.

"Here, human rights are not respected. The boss often shoves and hits people. They are never satisfied. They shout at us like we are animals," he said.

"But we signed a contract. Maybe it is our fault."

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

### PROGRAMME TWO

14:30 ..... Winkles  
14:30 ..... Wishbone  
15:00 ..... Blue Heeler  
15:30 ..... World Of Geo  
16:00 ..... The Valley Between  
16:30 ..... Tilt  
17:00 ..... French programmes  
19:00 ..... Le Journal  
19:30 ..... News headlines  
19:35 ..... Neighbours  
20:00 ..... Comedy — Ties that Bind  
20:30 ..... Prism  
21:10 ..... Time Trax  
22:00 ..... News in English  
22:30 ..... Feature film  
23:59 ..... Ellen

### PRAYER TIMES

04:43 ..... Fajr  
06:04 ..... (Sunrise) Duha  
12:36 ..... Dhuhur  
16:13 ..... 'Asr  
17:08 ..... Maghreb  
20:29 ..... 'Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church  
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632785.  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation  
Tel. 637440.  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661656.  
Terra Sancta Church Tel.

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St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 5516345

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The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

English-speaking

Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190

Min./Max. temp.,

Amman ..... 18/31

Aqaba ..... 24/37

Deserts ..... 15/35

Jordan Valley ..... 23/37

Yesterday's high temperatures:

Amman 33 Aqaba 37 Humidity

readings: Amman 28 per cent,

Aqaba 35 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Abbas Al Hakim ..... 885446

Dr. Ayman Al Muhtaseb 875748

Dr. Jamal Jbarah ..... 847351

Dr. Arslan Al Ashhab ..... 602507

Firas pharmacy ..... 661912

Ferdows pharmacy ..... 778336

Al Asena pharmacy ..... 637055

Nairouki pharmacy ..... 623672

Al Salam pharmacy ..... 636730

Yacoub pharmacy ..... 644945

Shmeisani pharmacy ..... 637660

Najib pharmacy ..... 847632

IRBID:

Dr. Mazen Abu Bakir ..... 276852

Al Quds pharmacy ..... (—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Ya'qoub Al Khatib ..... 991772

Khalifeh pharmacy ..... 985417

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre ..... 637111

Civil Defence Department ..... 661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue ..... 630341

Civil Defence Emergency ..... 199

Rescue Police 192, 621111,

63777

Fire Brigade ..... 617101

Blood Bank ..... 775121

Highway Police ..... 843402

Traffic Police ..... 896390

Public Security Department ..... 630321

Hotel Complaints ..... 605800

Price Complaints ..... 661176

Water and Sewerage Com-

plaints ..... 897467

Amman Municipality Com-

plaints ..... 787111

Telephone Information (direc-

tory assistance) ..... 121

Overseas Calls ..... 010230

Central Amman Telephone

Repairs ..... 623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs

..... 661101

Jordan Television ..... 773111

Radio Jordan ..... 774111

Water Authority ..... 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority

..... 815615

Electric Power Company

..... 636381

RJ Flight Information 08-

53200

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-

53200

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Husseini Medical Centre

..... 813813/32

Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn

..... 644281/6

Akileh Maternity, J. Amn

..... 642441/2

Jabal Amman Maternity

..... 642362

Malhas, J. Amman ..... 636140

Palestine, Shmeisani ..... 607071

Shmeisani Hospital ..... 669131

University Hospital ..... 845845

Al-Muasher Hospital, 667277/9

The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37

Al-Ahli, Abdali ..... 664164/6

Italian, Al-Mutajreen

..... 777101/3

Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh

..... 775111/26

Army, Marica ..... 891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50

Amal Hospital ..... 674155

The Arab Centre for Heart and

Special Surgery ..... 865199

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital

..... 09983323

Zarqa National Hospital

..... 09990560

Ibn Sina Hospital ..... 09986732

Al Hikam Modern Hospital

..... 09990990



## Government asks weeklies for proof of compliance with law

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Press and Publications Department has sent notifications to the nation's 18 weekly papers demanding reports on their financial accounts by the end of August 1997.

A report in Al-Dustour Friday said Department Director General Nayef Mawla sent memoranda stating that, in accordance with the Press and Publications Law, the weeklies must submit records of their accounts and budgets, and that failure to respond

by the end of the month would result in legal measures being taken against the newspapers in question. Article 36 of the 1993 Press and Publications Law stipulates that weekly papers must submit their financial ledgers for review and, in case of failure to do so, that the Press and Publications Department has the right to pursue legal action. Mr. Mawla was quoted by Al-Dustour as saying that all 18 weeklies have already submitted documents, approved by the

Ministry of Industry and Trade, intended to prove that they have registered a capital of JD 300,000 each as required by the recent amendments to the Press and Publications Law.

The department must now determine if these weeklies have actually acquired the required capital by examining their financial situations, he explained.

Minister of State for Information Affairs Sumir Mutawi last week announced that all daily and weekly papers submit-

ted documents to the Ministry of Information intended to confirm their adherence to the amendments, which were endorsed by the government on May 17.

According to the amendments, weekly papers must have a registered capital of JD 300,000, while the dailies must have a registered capital of JD 600,000.

Mr. Mawla said a ministry-appointed committee of experts is currently examining relevant documents.

## Meeting seeks to encourage adherence to human rights

AMMAN (J.T.) — The United Nations Centre for Human Rights in Geneva will convene an Asia/Pacific Regional Meeting on Universal Adherence to the Principal International Human Rights Instruments next week in Amman, a U.N. Information Service statement announced.

The meeting, which will be held from Sept. 1-4 at the Forte Grand Hotel, is being convened pursuant to the 1993 Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (VDP), the statement said Thursday.

The VPDA recommended that a concerted effort be made to encourage and facilitate the ratification of the international human

rights treaties and protocols adopted within the framework of the United Nations system with the aim of universal acceptance.

To that end, the United Nations Secretary-General was requested to open a dialogue with states that have not yet acceded to the human rights treaties, the statement said.

Hosted by the government of Jordan, the meeting will bring together experts from states in the Asian/Pacific region which have not submitted instruments of ratification, accession, or succession to a number of principal international human rights instruments, with a view to promoting understanding

and eventual ratification of the instruments, the statement added.

Participants will be introduced to all aspects of the treaty regime by international human rights experts and staff from the Centre of Human Rights, it said.

According to the United Nations, this meeting precedes two special occasions which make its convening at this point very timely: Next year, the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action will undergo a five-year review of its implementation, which coincides with the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

These two occasions pro-

vide an opportunity for the United Nations to assess the progress made towards making human rights truly universal, the statement said.

The statement emphasises that while ratification of a treaty by one country does not in itself mean that all human rights are respected in that country, it is an expression of commitment by a country to promote and protect the rights covered in that treaty.

It stressed that ratification of a treaty, therefore, is the first step of a continuous review of the laws, policies, and practices that affect the enjoyment of human rights.

## Two executed for murder

By Rama Hussein  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A man and a woman, both convicted of murder in 1996, were hanged at dawn Thursday at Swaga Prison, judicial sources confirmed.

Raya Musa, 35, and Khalid Saqa, 27, were sentenced to death by the Criminal Court last year after being convicted of murder in unrelated cases.

According to an official source who attended the execution, Musa, who screamed, cried, and read verses of the Koran while

being brought to the gallows, was declared dead after 17 minutes.

Saqa, who appeared calm, asked for forgiveness, and expressed regret for his crime, the official said. He said the prisoner was pronounced dead after 24 minutes.

Musa, the mother of nine, was sentenced to death by the Criminal Court in November 1996, after being found guilty of poisoning her husband, Ahmad Mire'e, in Mafrag in January of the same year.

She became the third woman executed in the

Kingdom in 1997.

Saqa was sentenced to death after being convicted of strangling his younger sister in a suburb of Amman.

A Royal Decree was issued last month approving the sentences after both cases were reviewed by the Court of Cassation, which ratified the ruling of the Criminal Court.

Thursday's executions bring the total number of people executed in Jordan this year to 11.

Last year, 10 people were put to death for committing various crimes.

## Bonn to raise aid to Jordan

BONN (Petra) — The German government will increase its development aid to Jordan next year in appreciation of its policies, stability, and supportive role in the peace process.

German Minister for Economic Cooperation Karl Dieter Sprenger Friday said in an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that although Germany will decrease its aid to developing nations from DM 3.965 billion to DM 3.275 billion next year, it will increase its aid to Jordan.

## EU to co-finance business conference

By Hind-Lara Mango  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The European Union will grant JD 40,000 for a proposed seminar on the Euro-Jordanian Association Agreement to be co-organised by the Jordanian Businessmen's Association (JBA) and the Delegation of the European Commission in Amman.

The aim behind the gathering, scheduled for November, is to inform the Jordanian business community of the challenges, opportunities, and consequences of the agreement, which was initiated in Malta this year, said Ramon Mestres, Economic Counsellor at the Delegation of the European Commission in Amman.

According to Mr. Mestres, Jordanian industrialists and businessmen have expressed a strong interest in acquiring more knowledge of the agreement.

"It is widely [felt] in the business community [here] that there is a lack of awareness of the content of the association agreement and its impact on the Jordanian econ-

omy," Mr. Mestres told the Jordan Times.

Free trade between the EU and some Mediterranean countries, including Tunisia, Morocco, and Palestine, is already under way, and similar agreements are being negotiated with Egypt and Lebanon, he said.

Analysts believe that the next 10 years will prove to be a period of political and socio-economic reform in Jordan, with dramatic transformations taking place in trade, investment, and business, he continued.

One goal of the agreement is the establishment of a Euro-Mediterranean free-trade zone by the year 2010, as stated in the 1995 Barcelona Declaration.

"This enlarged zone would encompass some 40 countries with a population of [nearly] one billion," explained Mr. Mestres, who said he believes that this zone could become one of the three major blocks constituting the future global economy.

Questions of concern to the local private sector pertain to

the export of agricultural products, intellectual property rights and trade liberalisation in services, trade liberalisation towards EU industrial products, competition law, and the rules of origin and accommodation, Mr. Mestres added.

The Euro-Mediterranean Agreement provides a framework for political dialogue, in accordance with the first pillar of the political and security partnership of the Barcelona Declaration.

The goal of establishing the conditions for the progressive liberalisation of trade in goods, services, and capital is in line with the free-trade area concept, Mr. Mestres explained.

The partnership also deals with improving living and employment conditions and enhancing productivity and financial stability, said Mr. Mestres.

"Regional cooperation with a view for the consolidation of peaceful coexistence and economic and political stability," is another focal point of the Euro-Jordanian partnership, Mr. Mestres said.

## Police arrest smuggling suspects

AMMAN (J.T.) — Police Friday announced the arrest of two people suspected of trafficking arms to the Kingdom from Iraq, according to an official source.

The source said the two men arrested had infiltrated the Jordanian border and were found in possession of large numbers of automatic weapons, explosives, and missile launchers.

The source would not elaborate on what authorities believe the suspects may have intended to do with the large cache of weapons and explosives, nor whether their final destination was Jordan.

The source maintained that State Security Prosecutor Captain Mahmoud Hyassat is questioning the two men, and will refer their case to the State Court within the next few weeks.

## Committee to attend conference in Yemen

AMMAN (Petra) — The Higher Jordanian-Yemeni Joint Committee is slated to hold its sixth meeting in Sana'a from Sept. 7-9 under the leadership of the two nations' prime ministers.

During the meeting, several agreements are expected to be concluded in the fields of health, trade, energy, tourism, culture, and economic cooperation, according to a statement issued Friday.

The higher committee meetings will be preceded by a preliminary conference from Sept. 3-7 headed by the ministers of industry and trade of the two countries, the statement continued.

Secretary General of the Ministry of Industry and Trade Mohammad Halaigah organised an information session for the representatives of the con-

cerned ministries and the private sector and said the main issues to be discussed in Sana'a include boosting trade exchanges and the prospects of concluding a deal worth \$5 million to each side, as well as organising trade fairs in both countries to promote the sale of local products.

The parties are scheduled to sign an agreement on organising employment and sharing expertise in vocational training, and to discuss cooperation in health and medical care, facilitation of Jordanian medicine exports to Yemen, provision of medical treatment in Jordan for Yemeni patients, and cooperation between the respective private health sectors. Dr. Halaigah said.

The higher committee plans to study the possibility of the two private sectors establishing a joint compu-

ny to deal with maritime transport, and allowing Royal Jordanian (RJ) to operate direct flights between Amman and Sana'a and Aden, and provide expertise in aircraft maintenance, Dr. Halaigah added.

The committee will examine a plan to send Jordanian teachers to Yemen and allow Yemeni students to obtain scholarships at local universities.

The group is expected to urge the private sector to set up a joint fishing company and arrange a timetable for the exchange of agricultural produce.

Several other plans are to be covered, including the purchase of gas and oil products from Yemen, provision of advice in electricity-related matters, establishment of a seismological centre in Yemen, and cooperation in mining.

Dr. Halaigah said the committee will explore the prospect of Jordanian priority in Yemeni construction projects, in particular public works.

During the meetings an agreement is expected to be signed on cooperation in tourism and culture, and on providing expertise in social development and security affairs, including training in security work and criminal extradition.

The private sector will be invited to benefit from the opportunities that will be opened by these agreements, he continued.

Jordan last year exported JD 21 million worth of goods to Yemen, mainly cement, and imported JD 5.7 million worth of Yemeni products, mainly fish.

## Sao Paulo names city square after Amman

SAO PAULO (Al Ra'i) — The Municipal Council of Sao Paulo has named one of its main squares after Amman, during a special ceremony attended by Greater Amman Mayor Mamdouh Abbadi, Ambassador to Brazil Azmi Mirza, and Amman Municipal Council Member Majid Asfour.

Dr. Abbadi and the mayor of Sao Paulo also signed an agreement of cooperation between the municipalities of Sao Paulo and Amman. Addressing the ceremony, the mayor of Sao Paulo said the eponym is a ges-

ture of appreciation toward Amman.

He praised His Majesty King Hussein as one of the prominent leaders in the region, saying that he enjoys the appreciation and respect of the Brazilian people, who look forward to a visit by the King to their country.

The mayor outlined the importance of Dr. Abbadi's visit to the Brazilian capital, saying that it is an important step on the path of establishing bilateral ties between both capitals.

Dr. Abbadi reviewed Greater Amman Municipality's objectives, saying that it intends to provide a good infrastructure and a clean environment, as well as cultural and recreational facilities for its citizens.

Dr. Abbadi visited the Arab-Brazilian Chamber of Commerce where he met with board members and was briefed on its activities and the services it provides to the Arab community there.

Dr. Abbadi extended an invitation to Brazilian travel and tour agents to visit Amman.



Mamdouh Abbadi

## WHAT'S GOING ON

### EXHIBITIONS

\* Works by Basem Al Mahdi at the Jordan Plastic Art Association Gallery, Jabal Weibdeh, until Sept. 8.

\* ArtZaman and Bani Hamida present a Bani Hamida exhibition, rugs, cushions, runners, wall hangings and baskets at the Al-Baidar Hall of Kan Zaman, in Yafoudah until Sept. 20.

\* Islamic Bookbinding Exhibition at the British Council, Jabal Amman, until Aug. 31.

## 'Seeds of Peace' programme takes root

By Hind-Lara Mango  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In 1993, journalist John Wallach founded the Seeds of Peace programme to promote Arab-Israeli coexistence.

Since then this programme has gained momentum, increasing from an original 50 participants to a current number of 150 from eight nations.

Jordan joined this programme in 1995. The Seeds of Peace International Camp brings together teenagers from the West Bank, Gaza, Israel, Jordan, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, Qatar, and the United States.

Participants come from diverse backgrounds: refugee camps, settlements, and Muslim, Jewish, Christian, and Druze environments, said Alia Fada, Seeds of Peace representative in Jordan.

For the first time, the Seeds of Peace has been allocated its own camp in the United States.

"We usually camped for thirty days in other camps in the States, but this year we have our own Seeds of Peace camp in Maine," Ms. Fada said.

Each year, 20 teenagers, selected through a competitive process of interviews, essays, and recommendations, are chosen from Jordan to participate in the Seeds of Peace programme, Ms. Fada disclosed.

Originally this programme was restricted to Jubilee School students, but now all students in the Kingdom can participate,

according to Ms. Fada.

As for the benefits gained from such an activity, Ms. Fada told the Jordan Times that teenagers come away from this experience with more insight, become more politically aware, and even start to read newspapers.

"The most exciting thing at the camp was when we started to interact with each other through sports," said Leen Alami, who recently returned from her second trip to the Seeds of Peace camp.

She told the Jordan Times that this daily interaction fostered cooperation amongst the campers.

"It did not really matter whether you were Jordanian, Palestinian, Israeli, or American. We got to know each other as individuals," she said.

For first-timer Serena Kefayeh, this was a unique experience. She told the Jordan Times that others at the camp had respected her point of view and had listened to what she had to say.

"We tried to put aside our differences and to focus on common ground," she explained.

Participants this year met with U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, who according to Serena, was proud of them and said that they had the full support of President Bill Clinton in their endeavours to promote peace.

In 1996, Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor invited Seeds of Peace to Jordan for a reunion, which was attended by more than 200 Arab and Israeli

alumni.

Serena stressed that it was very important to have peace. "Without peace nothing would be worth it, because when your neighbours and you don't have peace, how can you have peace with the rest of the world," she said.

According to 17-year-old Shouq Tarawneh, a three-time participant, the most important aspect of Seeds of Peace is the return home.

"We have to show others how important it is to be open-minded. It is not important to agree with different points of view, but we have to get to know others," Shouq said.

For Shouq, the coexistence sessions at the camp are of the most interest.

Politics are the main issue here, and usually dialogue is between Palestinians and Israelis, while other nationals participate by giving their opinions on what is being discussed, she said.

"We discussed with the Israelis how Jordan is hosting a lot of Palestinian refugees who have the right to go back home," Shouq said.

Participants always differentiated between their personal points of view and their country's official position, she emphasised.

As a programme leader, Shouq has the duty of a facilitator for new campers.

She revealed that at the beginning of each camp, emotions and



Seeds of Peace participants gather on the White House steps before meeting U.S. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton

tensions are quite high among the 14- and 15-year-old campers.

"Young campers become very emotional when we speak about the peace process. They start fighting with each other whenever they discuss who suffered more, and who had the right to live on the land," she said.

This year, tensions were especially high with the Jerusalem bombings and the subsequent closures taking place during the

course of the camp season.

A ceremony was held in memory of those who died, and everybody at the camp expressed his or her sorrow, Shouq said.

But campers leave with different views than the ones they came with, agree all three campers interviewed.

At the end of this year's camp, participants were given a seminar on the significance of first achieving peace within one's

self. Shouq recalls what a moving experience this was, when "one Egyptian boy stood up and asked how peace could be [attained] when his Israeli colleague did not even believe in the existence of Palestine."

The Israeli boy answered by saying that he did indeed believe in a state called Palestine and that Palestinians had the right to live there.



# Sihanouk arrives back in Cambodian temple town

SIEM REAP, Cambodia (R) — Cambodia's King Norodom Sihanouk arrived in the northwest town of Siem Reap Friday on his first trip to his homeland since Premier Hun Sen ousted the king's son as co-premier in July.

King Sihanouk, 74, flew in from Beijing where he has been receiving medical treatment for several ailments since February. He said earlier he wanted to hold Buddhist prayers for peace and national reconciliation at the famed Angkor Temple complex near Siem Reap.

A light rain fell as King Sihanouk, accompanied by his wife Queen Monineath, was helped down the aircraft steps by a bodyguard.

He was greeted by acting head of state Chea Sim and other government leaders including Second Prime Minister Hun Sen and newly appointed First Prime Minister Ung Huot, the replacement for King Sihanouk's son, Prince Norodom Ranariddh.

A smiling Sihanouk, with a garland of flowers around his neck, then walked up a red carpet greeting and talked to officials.

"I am the father of all Cambodian people," the ailing king told reporters when asked if he recognised Mr. Hun Sen's new government.

He said his message for his people was one of peace and national reconciliation.

The king, a constitutional monarch, has made clear his disapproval of Mr. Hun Sen's bloody July 6 overthrow of Prince Ranariddh and has said he still recognises the prince as a legitimate prime minister.

Earlier Friday, King Sihanouk made a fresh call for a ceasefire in his troubled country. "What I can and must do is beg Hun Sen... and all the antagonists, parties and armies, to effect as soon as possible a general ceasefire," the king said in a statement issued in Beijing.

Government forces under Mr. Hun Sen and royalist fighters loyal to Prince Ranariddh have been battling in northwestern Cambodia for several weeks. Thai military sources on the border opposite the contested Cambodian town of O'Smach said the situation was generally quiet Friday though there had been light shelling earlier.

Several thousand people including many schoolchildren lined the road from Siem Reap airport to the king's residence in the centre of the leafy town.

King Sihanouk has not said how long he will stay in Siem Reap but earlier this week said his Chinese doctors had asked him to return to Beijing for medical checks in three months.

Political analysts said King Sihanouk's decision to fly straight to Siem Reap without visiting the capital was a sign that he was not yet willing to give his endorsement to Mr. Hun Sen's new government.

Mr. Hun Sen and Prince Ranariddh, former battlefield foes, shared power in a coalition government set up after United Nations-supervised elections in 1993.

Prince Ranariddh won the election but the king helped broker the coalition agreement with Mr. Hun Sen after the leader of the former Vietnamese-backed Communist government objected to the poll result.

Meanwhile, several shells were fired by opposing forces in northwestern Cambodia Friday morning.

Forces under Hun Sen and royalist fighters exchanged several artillery rounds in the vicinity of the Cambodian border town of O'Smach but there was no sustained fighting, a Reuters photographer on the Thai side of the border said.

The king said he had received demands for support from compatriots opposed to Second Prime Minister Hun Sen, who toppled Ranariddh in early July.

He said that as constitutional monarch he had no right to condemn the government, while to abdicate would be to abandon his people in their hour of need.

"Regarding the 'de jure or de facto recognition' of the government of Hun Sen, it's not up to me to grant this or not," he said.

Most royalist soldiers withdrew from O'Smach Sunday and took up positions in surrounding hills where they have been firing down on Mr. Hun Sen forces trying to approach the town.

In a separate development, the Thai government has issued a formal complaint to Cambodia after one soldier was killed and two wounded earlier this week when shells fired by Cambodian government forces landed in Thai territory.

An aide memoir written by the Thai embassy in Phnom Penh and obtained by Reuters Friday said the incident was a violation of Thailand's territorial integrity and if it happened again would have implications for the countries' relations.

"The royal Thai government considers this fatal incident constitutes a violation of Thailand's territorial integrity and sovereignty," the aide memoir said. "This act, if it continues unabated, would have serious implications on the relations between Thailand and Cambodia."

The aide memoir said four artillery shells fired by Royal Cambodian Armed Forces Wednesday afternoon landed and exploded in Thai territory, 50 metres from the Thai-Cambodian border at Chong Chom village, in Surin province.

The artillery shells killed one man, wounded two and damaged a Thai army vehicle.

The incident occurred as Cambodian government forces attacked royalist fighters around O'Smach.

"The royal government of Cambodia is strongly urged... to take immediate measures to prevent the recurrence of similar incidents and provide appropriate compensation to the families of the above-mentioned soldiers," the aide memoir said.

Cambodian Co-Defence Minister Tea Banh apologised Thursday for the incident.



King Sihanouk of Cambodia (left) is kissed by Co-Premier Hun Sen upon his arrival at Siem Reap airport, near the famous Angkor Wat, in northern Cambodia Friday. The king returned to the war-torn country Friday following months of medical treatment in Beijing (Reuters photo)

## London invites Sinn Fein to attend peace talks

BELFAST (AFP) — London Friday extended a formal invitation to the Sinn Fein political wing of the Irish Republican Army (IRA) to join the Ulster peace talks, in recognition of the latest paramilitary ceasefire here.

The move opened the way for representatives from all sides of the divided province to thrash out the future course of government in Northern Ireland at peace talks due to resume at Stormont Castle near Belfast on Sept. 15.

However, participation in the talks by the main Unionist party, the Ulster Unionist Party (UUP) adamant that Ulster should remain part of the United Kingdom, remains uncertain, in the face of ongoing concern over the decommissioning of IRA weapons.

Britain's Northern Ireland Secretary Mo Mowlam made the formal invitation to Sinn Fein in the light of a six-week ceasefire of IRA activity, which she said had been observed "in word and deed" with a complete absence of paramilitary activity on the ground.

Ms. Mowlam said in a statement: "I have reached this decision after careful consideration of all the circumstances, following the announcement on July 19 of an unequivocal restoration of the ceasefire of August 1994 by the IRA."

The minister added: "In reaching it I have considered carefully all of the evidence available to me about the restoration of the IRA ceasefire and about Sinn Fein's commitment to exclusively peaceful methods and their wish to abide by the democratic process."

The IRA ruptured its previous ceasefire with a deadly London bomb blast in February 1996 after a truce which lasted 18 months.

Representatives of Sinn Fein, barred from the negotiating table in the wake of this and a string of other attacks across mainland Britain, made regular protests against their exclusion outside the Stormont buildings.

Sinn Fein leaders Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness will now be able to pass through the castle's gates to press the case of the hardline nationalist party, which is fighting for a united Ireland.

Hardline Unionists led by the fiery Reverend Ian Paisley, head of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), and another faction led by Robert McCartney, a one-time Conservative politician, have vowed to boycott any negotiations with Sinn Fein.

## Top Chechen official involved in freeing TV journalists shot dead

MOSCOW (AFP) — A senior Chechen security official who played a key role in the release of five kidnapped Russian television journalists was shot dead later in unclear circumstances, another top official involved in the operation revealed Friday.

Ruslan Aushev, president of the Russian Republic of Ingushetia, told the weekly Obshchaya Gazeta that Chechen Deputy Interior Minister Nurdi Bazhiyev had decided how much ransom money was to be handed over and to whom, but he was later killed.

The five Russian journalists — two from the VID television company and three from NTV — were released in Chechnya on Aug. 17 and 18, and top Russian and Chechen security officials have launched a joint manhunt to track down the kidnappers.

The Chechen leadership has denied allegations by NTV chief Igor Malashenko and Boris Berezovsky, deputy secretary of the Russian Security Council, that senior Chechen officials had organised the kidnappings and that the jour-

nalists had not been freed by Chechen police.

Mr. Aushev, whose republic borders in Chechnya, said Bazhiyev had told him he knew where the journalists were being held, and Mr. Aushev offered to help gain their release.

Later Alexander Lyubimov, a senior executive with VID, said his company was ready to pay a ransom for its journalists. Mr. Aushev told the weekly.

"Money was brought from Moscow to (the Ingush capital) Nazran, and Ingush Interior Minister Daud Korikov and 50 policemen were sent to Chechnya with the money," Mr. Aushev said.

"I warned Korikov: 'Your job is to guard the money, so that not a kopek is lost on the way. Bazhiyev decides how much is given, and to whom. You just help him.'"

"Money was given to some people, others were told not to interfere, and yet others were bashed on the head. There was a bit of everything — money, force, a desire to free the journalists. The bandits were under pressure from all sides," Mr. Aushev said, adding that

"Nurdi Bazhiyev and his boys did their job."

Mr. Aushev said he did not know how much ransom was paid.

Commenting on the death of Bazhiyev after the releases, Mr. Aushev said: "I don't know exactly how it happened — most likely it was an accidental shot."

"Maybe somebody near him was fooling around with a weapon and pulled the trigger."

After the releases, Mr. Malashenko said a "seven-figure number" in dollars had been paid to the kidnappers, who were "working directly under the leadership of 'Chechen Vice-President Yasha Arsanov'."

According to Mr. Arsanov, the kidnappers fiercely resisted Chechen police who went to free the hostages, killing one policeman and wounding six.

President Boris Yeltsin angrily rejected Mr. Malashenko's claims, but added: "We haven't said everything, and cannot say everything, about how our journalists were freed."

Mr. Berezovsky said a ransom had been paid, but refused to give details.

## Taliban accuse Iran of meddling in Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD (R) — The Taliban movement accused Iran Friday of arming and training Afghans for sabotage in Afghanistan, a Pakistan-based Afghan News Service reported.

The Afghan Islamic Press (AIP) quoted Kandahar-based Taliban spokesman Sayed Muhammad Haqqani as saying the Taliban had seized Iranian explosives and equipment hidden in cement bags at the Iranian-Afghan border in Nimroz province Thursday.

Mr. Haqqani said the material was intended to have been used to blow up buildings and bridges "to shed more blood in Afghanistan" on the instructions of the Iranian government.

"We are warning Iran again to stop its interference and to cease helping the opposition militarily," said Mr. Haqqani.

He accused Tehran of running training camps for opposition fighters on its soil and sending them back

across the border.

Taliban official sources say the militia holds at least two Iranian nationals who were captured in battle.

Shiite-majority Iran has not concealed its distrust of the Sunni Muslim Taliban militants who swept into Kabul 11 months ago in a quest to impose their strict brand of Islamic rule across Afghanistan, of which they control about two thirds.

Tehran still recognises ousted President Burhanuddin Rabbani as head of

Afghanistan's legitimate government, but it denies providing military aid to the Taliban's opponents, who include the Shiite Muslim Hizb-e-Wahdat militia.

Opposition factions accuse neighbouring Pakistan of creating and supporting the mainly ethnic Pashtun Taliban.

Pakistan, followed by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, recognised the Taliban government in May, but denies sponsoring the purist Islamic militia.

## Gang warfare in Venezuelan jail kills 29

EL DORADO (R) — Twenty-nine inmates were hacked and stabbed to death Thursday at a remote Venezuelan maximum-security jail in a savage battle for power between rival gangs, authorities said.

"There are 29 dead and 13 injured, the scene inside is hellish," said Rodriguez, Secretary General of Bolivar state, told Reuters outside the El Dorado jail, 700 kilometres southeast of Caracas.

Justice Ministry officials had earlier put the number of dead at 42, but local authorities explained that early reports were confused by scarce information from the rain forest region, in the heart of Venezuela's gold-rich territories.

The killers used machetes and primitive knives, decapitating several of the vic-

tims. Others were badly burned when the attackers set fire to their mattresses, officials said.

"There are seven headless corpses and several with stab wounds and mutilated limbs," said Jose Alberto Zulueta, a top official at the state governor's office.

At least two of the dead had had their throats cut. Blood was splattered on the walls and heads and limbs lay scattered on the floor, prison officials said.

The carefully planned surprise attack started shortly after dawn when many of the prisoners were asleep and lasted for less than 20 minutes.

Seeking revenge for the recent murder of one of their gang leaders, a group of inmates broke the locks on their cell and launched the violent raid on a rival

gang transferred from another jail.

As they approached, the attackers shouted a coded warning that guards were carrying out a weapons search, meaning that their victims were defenceless when they burst into the cell.

The savage raid was sparked by fierce rivalries between local inmates and a group of prisoners moved from the La Sabaneta jail in western Venezuela far from their families as a punishment, officials said. All of the dead were from La Sabaneta, they added.

"It was a lynching. The aim was to massacre them," Justice Minister Hilarión Cardozo told a news conference.

Built in 1958, the El Dorado jail lies across the River Cuyuni from the scruffy mining town named after

the mythical South American city of gold.

Surrounded by water reputedly infested by piranhas and alligators, the jail once held famous French jailbreaker Henri Charrier, better known as Papillon, who escaped.

"This place is the worst you could possibly imagine," a former El Dorado prison guard told Reuters. "They're the most dangerous criminals in the country, total animals, the scum of society."

About 50 of the jail's 380 inmates took part in the fight which ended as quickly as it started and order was quickly restored by about 20 National Guardsmen, officials said.

Those responsible for the murders would be rooted out and charged, Mr. Cardozo said.

## Kabila's Congo halts U.N. massacre probe

KINSHASA (R) — The Kinshasa government has halted a U.N. investigation into massacres in the former Zaire, accusing the probe team of breaking agreements.

It accused investigators of meeting government opponents and questioned the neutrality of the mission's Togolese leader, Atsu-Koffi Amega.

National Reconstruction Minister Etienne Mbaya, who is charged with liaising with the investigation, told a news conference, the team would have to await the arrival of a parallel African mission before continuing the probe.

"The arrival of this mission has not taken place in

the spirit of the protocol signed on the 14th of July this year," Mr. Mbaya told reporters in Kinshasa.

"That is why, conscious of its responsibilities the government demands the mission and the secretary general of the U.N. to delay the work of this mission here until another team from the OAU (Organisation of African Unity) can be added to their staff," he added.

Mr. Mbaya, who has yet to meet the investigators, further raised questions about the neutrality of Togo itself.

"We asked that the leader of the mission should be a jurist from a neutral country," he said. Togo had long held close relations with

ousted dictator Mobutu Sese Seko, he added.

Mr. Mobutu was ousted by Mr. Kabila in May and fled, first to Togo, and then on to Morocco where he is ailing with cancer.

Mr. Mbaya said the government would be unable for the moment to fulfil security guarantees in the Kivu region of the country, in particular the region of Masisi where massacres are alleged to have taken place.

Interior Minister Mwenze Kongolo, who was also at the news conference said Interahamwe Hutu militia were still active in the region.

More than a million Rwandan Hutus streamed into eastern Zaire in 1994

fearing reprisals for the genocide of minority Tutsis or their sympathisers by hardline Hutus.

Last October Mr. Kabila launched a seven-month rebellion from the region to topple Mr. Mobutu, who was an ally of the Hutus. Aid officials believe thousands of Hutu refugees were systematically massacred by Mr. Kabila's troops there.

Mr. Kabila denies the charges and blames bloodshed in refugee camps on hardline Hutus there. Camp inmates included armed Hutu former soldiers defeated by Tutsi guerrillas who won a civil war that intensified after the genocide.

## Trust in Hong Kong government falls but Tung stays popular — polls

HONG KONG (R) — Trust in Hong Kong's government has dipped since Britain left, but post-colonial leader Tung Chee-Hwa has eclipsed pro-democracy politician Martin Lee as the most popular politician, polls indicated Friday.

The Democratic Party, ousted from the territory's legislature when China took the colony back last month, remains the most popular political grouping.

Only 48.3 per cent of respondents trusted the government in August, compared with 62.9 per cent in June, before the July 1 sovereignty transfer, a poll by Hong Kong University showed.

The survey of 564 respondents indicated a steady rise in popularity for Mr. Tung, who scored a rating of 66.1 per cent in late July versus 58.1 per cent in June.

The survey detected a rise in confidence from pre-handover levels, with 61.2 per cent confident in China's "one country two systems" policy for Hong Kong in

late July, compared with 56.8 per cent in June. The poll found 77.5 per cent were confident in Hong Kong's future, up from 67.9 per cent in June.

The survey showed weak support for the new China-appointed legislature, which replaced an elected parliament on July 1.

The highest support for any legislator was 58.9 per cent, about 20 points lower than the highest support levels for members of the pre-handover chamber.

The top rating in the legislature was held by Chan Yuen-Han, a grassroots politician known for her fair-minded and outspoken views on bread and butter issues.

The Provisional Legislature's President Rita Fan barely scraped into the top 10, scoring 48.8 per cent in tenth place.

Beijing has promised Hong Kong, which was a British colony for 156 years, that it can keep its free-wheeling capitalistic way of life unchanged for a

further 50 years or more.

A separate poll by the Chinese University of Hong Kong for the mass-selling Apple Daily showed Mr. Tung overtaking Democratic Party leader Martin Lee as most popular public figure.

Out of 587 people polled, 10.1 per cent voiced a liking for Mr. Tung, against 8.7 per cent for second-placed Mr. Lee, 7.3 per cent for Hong Kong's chief civil servant Anson Chan, and 3.6 per cent for pro-democracy politician Emily Lau, who came in fourth.

The poll, taken this week, also asked 430 people which party they would vote for in Legislative Council elections next May, and Mr. Lee's Democrats came out on top with 25 per cent.

The pro-Beijing Democratic Alliance for the Betterment of Hong Kong came second with 4.4 per cent. The pro-China, business-leaning Liberal Party scored 3.5 per cent.

## Thai flood death toll rises to 42

BANGKOK (R) — Thai officials promised speedy aid to flood victims Friday following protests and complaints the government had not acted quickly enough to help ease the crisis.

An Interior Ministry official put the death toll at 42, with 187 injured and five missing after the floods swamped 10 southern provinces last week.

Helicopters took off Friday to airdrop supplies to victims in remote villages still cut off by high waters, officials said.

The heavy tropical rains which started last Friday had stopped by Tuesday but more

bodies were being found, the Interior Ministry official said.

A rescue official in the worst hit southern province of Chumphon told Reuters in a telephone interview that authorities were facing difficulties getting food and other necessities to flood victims in the villages because of the high waters.

"The only way to help them now is to use helicopters," the official said.

The government has earmarked hundreds of millions of baht to help the flood victims, but many complained assistance was not coming fast enough.

## Japanese hi against cenc

AFP — A Japanese court has ruled against a censorship law that bans the sale of books and magazines that contain "obscene" or "immoral" content.

The court's decision was a landmark victory for publishers and artists who have long fought against the law, which was enacted in 1947.

The law has been widely criticized for being outdated and for infringing on freedom of expression.

The court's ruling is expected to have a significant impact on the publishing industry in Japan.

The decision is seen as a step towards modernizing Japan's legal system and protecting civil liberties.

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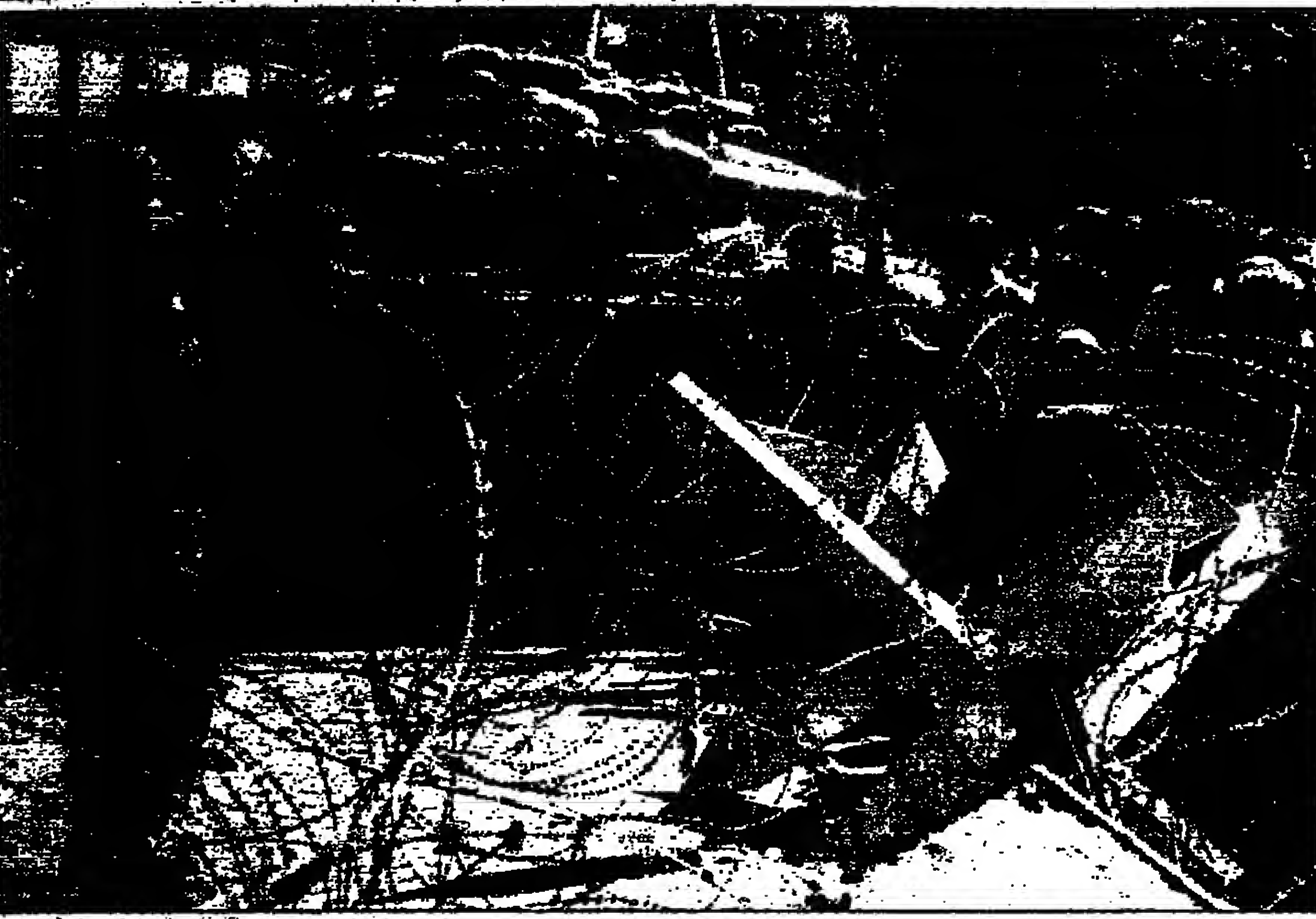
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U.S. SFOR soldier puts up a barbed wire while Bosnian Serbs protest in front of a SFOR checkpoint in Brcko. Tensions in the eastern Bosnian town continue after hundreds of Bosnian Serbs pelted U.S. peacekeeping troops with stones in response to the ousting of hardliners from a local police station in a continuing power struggle between Serb factions (Reuters photo)

## Japanese historian wins lawsuit against censorship of textbooks

TOKYO (AFP) — A Japanese court Friday awarded symbolic damages of 400,000 yen (\$3,400) to an elderly historian after a 32-year court battle against the government for censoring his textbooks to play down the country's war record.

The Supreme Court ruling ended the dogged struggle by Professor Saburo Ienaga, an author of high school history books who is now 83. He had been seeking damages of two million yen.

"It has become possible to write many things that were not allowed before," the fragile professor told an emotional news conference packed with hundreds of reporters and jubilant supporters including high-school teachers.

"I regret it was not a total victory, but you cannot underestimate today's ruling which reinforced the ruling of the lower court," he said.

Prof. Ienaga began his legal battle in 1965 when he filed his first suit challenging an order by the Education Ministry to rewrite textbook passages dealing with Japan's wartime aggression.

Among his descriptions of Japanese war atrocities which had to be rewritten were an account of the activities of a notorious germ warfare unit in China which conducted deadly experiments on Chinese, Russians and other foreigners.

The Education Ministry also ordered Prof. Ienaga to remove references to Chinese women being raped in Nanjing following Japan's invasion of the Chinese city in 1937, arguing that it was "common" for women to be raped during wars.

The professor, who used to lecture at Tokyo University of Education and Chuo University, filed a second suit in 1967 and a third in 1984 after he was ordered to rewrite textbooks on two occasions in 1980 and 1983.

In the ruling handed down Friday, the Supreme Court found unlawful interference in four out of seven separate textbook passages contested.

The courts rejected Prof. Ienaga's allegation that textbook censorship was "unconstitutional" in the first two suits. But in the third suit, his lawyers argued that such censorship amounted to unlawful interference and abuse of administrative rights even if it did not violate the Japanese constitution.

Prof. Ienaga's claims were backed at the

time by criticism of Japan's textbook screening system in China, South Korea and other Asian countries.

Since then, the climate surrounding the issue has changed. The government has decided to "give some consideration to the sentiments of neighbouring countries" towards textbook screening a move which has, in turn, triggered outrage among certain right-wing members of parliament.

The original passage in one of Prof. Ienaga's textbooks said that after entering Nanjing, Japanese soldiers "murdered a large number of Chinese soldiers and civilians and many of the Japanese officers raped Chinese women." The Education Ministry said the rape reference should be deleted as "it is common throughout the world for troops to rape women during war" and that any references to Chinese being massacred should be rewritten to show that the actions were not "unilaterally" carried out by Japanese troops.

In his suit, Prof. Ienaga argued that "the act of rape reflected the nature of war and the character of the Japanese army" at the time.

"The study of such incidents will help students understand more profoundly the intrinsic nature of wars and armies," he said.

Prof. Ienaga was also told to drop his entire reference to the germ warfare unit which "engaged in such atrocious acts as murdering several thousand Chinese and other non-Japanese by using them in biological experiments."

The Education Ministry said there was "no credible scholarly research" on the germ warfare facility, which was based in Harbin and known as Unit 731.

Prof. Ienaga countered that the government was "trying to conceal the truth about criminal activities" conducted by Japanese troops.

In its ruling Friday, the court noted that "the military is said to have deliberately scrapped relevant records in the closing days of the war amid fears of international criticism."

The fourth passage upheld by the court involved a reference to the emperor's influence in suppressing farmers and rank-and-file Samurai warriors who fought against the Tokugawa Shogunate in the 19th century.

## Yeltsin reshapes military reform team

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin removed Yuri Baturin from the sensitive post of the secretary of his defence council Thursday in a step clearly aimed at reshaping this powerhouse of Russia's military reform.

A Kremlin statement said Mr. Baturin, 48, would be replaced by First Deputy Defence Minister Andrei Kokoshin, 51, who would get extra powers as head of a newly-created watchdog body, the State Military Inspectorate.

Mr. Baturin retains his post as a Yeltsin adviser while Mr. Kokoshin loses his job in the ministry, the statement said.

Mr. Yeltsin vowed during his reelection campaign last year to transform the vast and ineffective Soviet-era military machine into a tighter and better equipped professional force, but his ideas met strong scepticism among the top military brass.

Outraged by attempts to sabotage his military reforms, Mr. Yeltsin created the defence council of top security officials in July 1996 to crush the resistance and named Mr. Baturin, his shadowy security aide, to head it.

Mr. Baturin failed to find common ground with then Defence Minister Igor Rodionov, who said a full-scale military reform was too expensive for Russia's struggling economy and insisted that it should be put off till better times.

After a series of complex political manoeuvres and direct pressure, Mr. Yeltsin sacked Mr. Rodionov in May and replaced him with the reform-minded commander of strategic missile forces, Igor Sergeyev, 59.

Mr. Sergeyev's arrival strongly reinforced a military reform team which also included Mr. Kokoshin, the first and so far only civilian deputy defence minister and a man with strong connections in the military-industrial complex.

Mr. Yeltsin this week praised the pace of military reforms spearheaded by Mr. Baturin, Mr. Sergeyev and Mr. Kokoshin and he has promised more cash to fuel them.

The government allocated 81.7 trillion roubles (\$14 billion) for defence spending in the draft 1998 budget compared with 69 trillion (\$11.9 billion) in 1997. The draft is now in parliament pending consideration.

Kremlin analysts have said that open resistance to reforms has been crushed but Mr. Yeltsin will have to regroup his forces for the new task of boosting reform while keeping it under control within a tight national budget.

## Bosnian town remains calm after Serbs attack U.S. troops

BANJA LUKA, Bosnia (R) — The Bosnian town of Brcko was reported calm early Friday after hardline Serb nationalists demonstrated their determination to resist Western-backed President Biljana Plavsic by attacking U.S. soldiers trying to install her loyalists in a police station.

Two U.S. soldiers in the NATO-led peacekeeping force were injured, evoking a stern warning from the White House that it would not tolerate such violence.

BBC correspondent, Karen Coleman said in a report from just outside Brcko Friday morning that she had spoken to a U.S. soldier in the area who said that as far as he knew the situation was calm at present.

"I myself just down the road from Brcko could hear helicopters flying over the town throughout the night. I did hear some gunshots but I don't know where they were coming from or who they were directed at," said Mr. Coleman.

Hardline supporters of the Serbs' wartime leader, Radovan Karadzic, who has been indicted for war crimes, had been losing ground to Ms. Plavsic in a struggle for control of Bosnian Serb State institutions.

But they fought back Thursday when U.S. soldiers of the Stabilisation Force (SFOR) tried to oust pro-Karadzic commanders from the police station at Brcko in northeast Bosnia.

A rock-throwing, club-wielding crowd quickly gathered and attacked the SFOR squad. One of the two injured U.S. soldiers suffered a cut over the eye and concussion that required treatment at the military hospital in Tuzla.

"We're continuing to work with both sides and we won't tolerate either side inciting... violence against the SFOR troops," White House spokesman, Joe Lockhart said.

The Pentagon said demonstrators threw bottles of flaming petrol at U.S. armoured personnel carriers and the U.S. troops had to fire teargas canisters and warning shots in the air to disperse the crowd.

The unruly scenes in Brcko, on the border with Croatia, appeared to give heart to Serb hardliners after weeks in which they saw their power being gradually stripped away by Ms. Plavsic, with Western backing.

Although Western officials said the U.S. soldiers had successfully ousted Karadzic loyalists from the police station, Brcko's hardline city council voted to reverse the move.

By day's end it was not clear who was in charge of the police in Brcko. The situation was also confused in Bijeljina, where reporters said crowds of people blocked an SFOR patrol.

Momcilo Krajisnik, a top Karadzic aide and member of the three-person Bosnian presidency, congratulated the citizens of Brcko on preventing the capture of the police station, saying they were the "first to crush the occupation of the republic according to the Banja Luka Scenario."

"I hope that you will repeat this feat a hundred times if we find ourselves in danger because we have the right to defend ourselves," he said in remarks reported by the Serb media.

Senior political sources in Banja Luka, Ms. Plavsic's headquarters, said they expected hardliners, whose base is in Pale, to cut services to intensify the rift between the regions.

"We have rock-solid information from our sources in Pale that the hardliners are going to cut off electricity, telephone and railway lines and disrupt traffic towards the area," one political source told Reuters. "They want to completely isolate the region to punish it."

Power supplies come chiefly from the Ugljevik thermoelectric plant in territory controlled by hardliners near Bijeljina and telephone lines run through Pale-controlled territory.

The political crisis threw into doubt whether local elections could be held throughout Bosnia as scheduled on September 13.

U.S. General Wesley Clark, NATO's supreme allied commander in Europe, was flying to Bosnia Friday, primarily to plan for the elections. NATO headquarters said.

NATO, which commands the 35,000-strong SFOR, said it was conducting security operations in the northeast to deter violence in Serb territories in Bosnia.

Robert Gelbard, the U.S. Bosnia envoy, was due to meet Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic in Belgrade, but any intervention by Mr. Milosevic, the chief wartime patron of the Bosnian Serbs, looked increasingly unlikely.

Diplomats said he still bore an extreme personal dislike for Ms. Plavsic, whom he once said should go to a lunatic asylum, and wanted to focus on local elections in Serbia rather than become entangled in affairs in the Bosnian Serb territory.

Earlier, NATO officials said permission had been requested for a plane to fly Mr. Milosevic to Banja Luka, but the Yugoslav press said this was for a promotional flight for a new service from Sarajevo that fell through because no permission was granted from Bosnia.

## Russia denies nuclear-type blast near test site

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russia Friday categorically denied U.S. reports that a nuclear-type explosion had taken place near an Arctic test site, and said the seismic event detected was a normal earth tremor.

Atomic Energy Minister Viktor Mikhailov told ITAR-TASS news agency that Russia's Novaya Zemlya nuclear test site was "closed, and Russia is fulfilling to the letter the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty" signed in 1996.

"In this case, there was an ordinary earth tremor measuring one to two points in the Kola Sea, about 100 kilometres from Novaya Zemlya. This is a seismic area, and that is well known," he said.

Foreign Ministry spokesman, Valery Nesterushkin

also stressed that Russia "is strictly abiding by the commitments President Boris Yeltsin made regarding the moratorium on nuclear tests," ITAR-TASS reported.

Neither Russia nor the United States have ratified the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, so it is not yet in force.

On Thursday U.S. officials said a seismic event consistent with a nuclear test had taken place around Aug. 16 near Novaya Zemlya and Washington had asked Moscow for an explanation.

Pentagon spokesmen said the seismic event had "explosive characteristics" and was consistent with a nuclear test, although a conclusion had not been reached. The Arctic test site was

central to the former Soviet Union's nuclear programme.

Mr. Mikhailov said hydrodynamic research was being conducted in laboratories at Novaya Zemlya, "and of course that has no relation at all to nuclear tests."

"I've spent a lot of time at Novaya Zemlya before, participating in various experiments, including nuclear tests, and I can say with all responsibility that the tremors recorded during nuclear tests have quite different characteristics," he told ITAR-TASS.

Earlier, Pentagon spokesman, Navy Captain Michael Doubleday, said: "If the seismic event was actually a low-level nuclear test event, then the Russians would be violating the object and the purpose of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty."

On July 2, the United States performed an underground test which involved using conventional explosives to blast plutonium. But Washington argues that the "subcritical" tests do not violate the treaty because they do not involve a nuclear chain reaction.

The Washington Times, which first reported the Russian event, said it was picked up by monitoring stations being set up around the world under the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. The network is designed to filter out earthquakes, the report said.

The newspaper said there was "high confidence" from the initial data that the seismic activity was produced by a nuclear test equivalent to between 100 and 1,000 tonnes of TNT.

## Mir spacewalk delayed for a few days

MOSCOW (R) — A spacewalk to inspect a damaged scientific module of Russia's space station Mir, initially scheduled for Sept. 3, may be postponed for two or three days, a senior Russian space official said Friday.

"We are thinking of postponing the spacewalk till Sept. 5 or 6," said Valery Ryumin, director of the Mir-NASA space programme. "The decision is not final, but very likely."

"We want to gloss the station inside a bit, to do small repairs there which it is better to do before rather than after the spacewalk," Mr. Ryumin told Reuters.

He said that U.S. Labour Day, celebrated on Sept. 1, posed an additional obstacle to the spacewalk, in which Russian Commander Anatoly Solovyov and NASA

astronaut Michael Foale are due to take part.

"It may sound funny but the Americans told us that on Sept. 2, when we were due to discuss overall readiness for the sortie, they would not be able to summon all the people after the holiday," Mr. Ryumin said, joking that for Russians there are no holidays.

A spokesman at the mission control outside Moscow said the three cosmonauts on board Mir would spend Friday preparing for the spacewalk and working with equipment.

"Foale, at the request of the American side, will spend most of the time studying the space suit he will have to wear," the spokesman said.

During the spacewalk Solovyov and Foale will look for one or more holes in the

exterior of the Spektr module, which was punctured and lost air on June 25, when a cargo tug collided with the station. Mir lost 40 per cent of its power then.

Solovyov and flight engineer Pavel Vinogradov must return at a later date for one or several spacewalks to make the actual repairs.

The spokesman said the crew would rehearse for next week's planned spacewalk inside the station Tuesday.

On Thursday the crew made further progress in boosting power to sections of the ship that have been off since the collision. Repairs last Friday have allowed them to harness some power from the solar panels on the Spektr module.

However, conditions for Spektr's solar panels are far from optimal because mo-

tors that point Spektr's solar panels toward the Sun do not work yet.

"We cannot figure out why the panels' orientation system does not work," Mr. Ryumin said. "We have prepared a whole load of tools for Mir to send with the Atlantis U.S. shuttle in September, but we do not yet know what we need to repair in this system."

In the next few days the cosmonauts will focus on switching on systems in the Kristall Biological Research Module, which also has an Atlantis docking port. It is expected to welcome a U.S. astronaut David Wolf, due to replace physicist Foale, in late September.

They also hope to power up the 1996-launched Priroda Scientific Module late next week.

## Hutu rebel attacks spread fear in northern Rwanda

KIGALI (AFP) — Hutu rebel activity in northern Rwanda has spread terror among local farmers and poses new threats to the Kigali government's efforts to impose its authority, according to officials and analysts.

Vice-President and Defence Minister Paul Kagame, leader of Tutsi former rebels who swept to power in July 1994, routing the former Hutu regime, has said his Rwandan Patriotic Army (RPA) is increasingly in control of the Ruhengeri region, with support from an intelligence network and residents.

However, a Western military expert, who asked not to be named, said this week told AFP that "while the RPA plays the game in conventional warfare terms, it cannot altogether cope with guerrilla tactics and destabilisation."

On Aug. 21, Hutu rebels assisted by armed groups of local peasants attacked a camp for Tutsi refugees from the neighbouring De-

mocratic Republic of Congo (DRC) near Gisenyi west of Ruhengeri, close to the DRC border.

The assailants killed 148 people, according to an official toll issued by Rwandan authorities.

The RPA has deployed six battalions of up to 9,000 men, armoured vehicles and Gazelle and MI-24 ground attack helicopters in the troubled region, the Western expert said.

However, observers noted that a state of permanent fear has been created in the region because of the systematic execution of civilians and local leaders by the rebels and reprisals against both the guerrillas and villagers by the RPA.

Mr. Kagame's press spokesman, Jean-Paul KIMONYO, told AFP that "south of Ruhengeri, at the beginning of July, there was a sector where more than 500 insurgents were operating."

"On the 10th of July, the army attacked and fought from six in the morning until

six in the evening," killing 105 insurgents, he said, without giving casualty figures on the military side.

"But since then, they (the rebels) have been operating in small bands, always on the move," he added.

Mr. Kimonyo said the region had been a "real deathtrap for local officials. The rebels were counting on winning support through intimidation and gaining control to negotiate from a position of strength."

The RPA's difficulties in hunting down the armed Hutu guerrillas are compounded by the terrain, composed of countless hills covered with banana plantations and thick bush and surrounded by dense forests.

The rebels also benefit from the agricultural wealth of the north, which is traditionally considered the "breadbasket," as well as its proximity to the DRC border and the road to Masisi in former Zaire.



## Jordan Times

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## Credibility starts at home

THE ISRAELI prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, went out of his way during his recent visit to Japan to point to the "dangers" of Iran's acquisition of missile technology. He went as far as describing Tehran's plan to develop such technology as a threat to the world economy at large. "If Iran acquires ballistic missiles that could reach thousands of kilometres," Netanyahu was quoted as telling the Press Club of Japan, "not only Israel would be in danger but many other countries in the world. The whole world economy could be taken hostage."

What apparently triggered those fears by the Israeli prime minister are reports that Iran is on the verge of developing and perfecting a missile with a range of 1,100 kilometres and starting work on another with a range of over 2,000 kilometres. Of course that was what Israel had said about Iraq and the Iraqi nuclear and missile development plans till that country was dealt a fatal blow during the Gulf war in 1991. According to Israeli standards, no Arab or non-Arab country in this region is allowed to ever acquire any arsenal that could match Israel's monopoly on nuclear weapons and the means to deliver them. Israel would not rest assured of its hegemony over the entire Middle East unless and until all regional capitals give up their plans to acquire their own mass destruction weapons and means of delivery.

Had Israel been the first to declare its readiness to rid itself of mass destruction weapons, including nuclear warheads, in return for a regional agreement to declare the Middle East a mass destruction weapons free zone, we would be the first to salute its anxieties about Iran's own plans to possess advanced missile technology. But having opted to reject all calls to put its own nuclear plant under international supervision, Israel is the last country to cry foul at Iran's military schemes.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER for Al Ra'i daily criticised Spain for objecting to Jordan's exporting tomato paste to the European Union (EU) countries, saying that the Kingdom is bound to sell its produce in the EU markets under the partnership agreement which is due to take effect by Jan. 1, 1999. Fahed Fanek said that it is regrettable to see Spain, which is considered a friendly country, veto the Kingdom's exports of 3,900 tonnes of tomato paste to the 15 EU countries. Not only did Spain object to Jordan's exports to the EU, it also objected to a EU decision to give Jordan the right to renegotiate the amounts of its agricultural exports to Europe five years after the conclusion of the partnership agreement, noted the writer. He said that should the partnership agreement go into effect, Jordan will become the fifth Mediterranean country to reach this accord with the EU. He said that Jordan, which currently sells \$122 million worth of products to EU markets annually, hopes to increase its exports to Europe. But he said Spain's unexpected move was like a stab in the back of a friend, noting that Spain sells Jordan four times its imports from the Kingdom, with the balance of trade showing a surplus of \$36 million in Madrid's favour.

A WRITER for Al Dustour criticised a government decision, which is to take effect at the end of this year, allowing merchants to import mineral water when production in Jordan suffices the country's needs. Mohammad Daoud said the government's efforts should be directed at protecting local products from foreign competition and refrain from draining the country's hard currency on unnecessary goods. The writer said it is the government's duty to provide protection to the country's agricultural and industrial products, as well as cut down on importing items that are produced in the Kingdom, because the country is in bad need of foreign currency to finance its development plans. Jordan, he said, is trying to transform itself into an exporter of goods rather than a mere importer of different products, and therefore all efforts should be exerted towards helping the local firms not only by cutting imports but also helping them produce goods of the best possible quality, that can compete with foreign products.

## Jordanian Perspective

# Jordan is committed to peace, as stipulated in the treaty it signed

By Dr. Musa Kellani

THE ISRAELI effort to indicate that its plan to build a dam on occupied Syrian territory has Jordanian agreement is nothing but another vain bid to strain Jordan's relations with Syria and the rest of the Arab World.

Israel does not seem to be able to comprehend Jordan's determination that the Kingdom's relations with the Jewish state will not and cannot be at the expense of its Arab identity and its strong-rooted ties with the Arab World.

Israel continues to believe that floating balloons that seem to question Jordan's commitment to the Arab cause could lead to the Kingdom's isolation in the Arab World. Such isolation, Israel seems to be convinced, will push Jordan into a deep embrace with the Jewish state. In short, Israel has opted to exercise the centuries-old colonialist policy of divide and rule.

Well, Israel is in for a major surprise. Regardless of what the Jewish state has to say, implicitly or explicitly, Jordan's policies and approaches are well known in the Arab World. In the immediate context, Syria could not but be well aware of the fact that one of the pillars of the Jordanian position in the peace process is the return of Arab lands to its legitimate owners, as the basis for any equitable Arab-Israeli peace agreement. As such, Damascus could not be misled by the Israeli assertion that Amman had agreed that one of the dams called for in the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty be sited on Syrian land.

Jordan's insistence that the return of land is a prerequisite for

Arab-Israeli peace does not stem from any desire to curry favour with Syria; it is a position that stems from the Kingdom's deep-rooted support for the Arab cause. It cannot be described as a simple pragmatic and realistic approach. Indeed, pragmatism and realism have always been a feature of the Jordanian policy, but Amman's demand that Israel respect and adhere to United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 is also based on its conviction that international legitimacy guide the way to comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

The Jordanian position is clear and sound: it has secured its rights to land and water through the peace treaty it signed with Israel and will follow up the issues on a bilateral basis with the Jewish state, without infringing upon the rights of anyone else. So much should indeed be very clear to anyone.

Beyond that is the firm Jordanian rejection of any Israeli effort to legitimise its usurpation of Arab territory, whether Palestinian or Syrian. It is not as if Jordan is simply saying that it is a matter between Israel and Syria whether Israel is building anything on Syrian territory as long as the Kingdom is assured of its rights.

Definitely not. What we in Jordan are demanding is simple: Israel should agree not only to respect the territorial rights of Syria and all other Arabs, including of the Palestinians and the Lebanese, but also return those territories without conditions to their legitimate owners; that is, if Israel is interested in genuine peace.

Notwithstanding public statements, we are sure that our Syrian brothers are fully aware of the Jordanian position and would not allow Israel to drive a wedge between Amman and Damascus.

Now, in the bilateral context, it would seem that Ariel Sharon and company had been cooking the dam scam for some time, after raising questions about why Israel had agreed, in the first place, to respect Jordan's water rights as stipulated in the peace treaty.

Notwithstanding the lame excuses and justifications that Sharon put up subsequently, we do not really believe that he and the likes of him in Israel have any genuine feeling of normal relationship with Jordan despite all our efforts to streamline ties with the Jewish state and put relations in the right perspective. In this context, it should be clear to all that Jordan is committed to the peace treaty it signed with Israel and is seeking ways and means to realise the water projects (as well as other projects) stipulated in that document and its annexes. There is no secret attachment to the peace treaty. It is there black and white for anyone to read and comprehend.

As our leaders and government ministers have clearly emphasised, Jordan is not a party to whatever schemes Israel has in mind for the Arab territories it occupies. We demand the unequivocal return of Arab territories to Arabs as the basic foundation for Arab-Israeli peace.

## THE WEEK IN PRINT

# Jordan clears the waters after Israel's mudding

REVIEWED BY  
ELIA NASRALLAH

THE LOCAL dailies this week focused attention on reports about Israeli and Jordanian intentions of building a dam on the Yarmouk River, the Palestine problem, the 1997 general elections and domestic issues.

Tareq Masarweh, a writer for Al Ra'i, accused Israel of trying to cause a split between Syria and Jordan by claiming that, according to the Jordan-Israel peace treaty, Israel and Jordan will build a dam on territories occupied from Syria in the 1967 war.

The writer said that Israel does not care about Jordan's need of water and it is only fishing in muddy waters and seeking to secure sufficient water supplies for its own projects.

Jordan had earlier drawn up plans for the construction of the dam on the Yarmouk River, to guarantee water for irrigation purposes, and therefore, said the writer, it should not give any attention to Israel's claims and attempts to create problems in the region but rather go ahead with its own plans and carry out the dam project because the Kingdom is in desperate need for the precious water for its survival.

Saleh Qulalab, a writer for Al Arab Al Yawm, said that the conflicting reports about the dam project have confused the Jordanians. While the minister of water and irrigation, Munther Haddadin, declared that the project is 100 per cent Jordanian and will be implemented in accordance with the provisions of the Jordan-Israel peace treaty, the Israeli leaders have been saying otherwise, insisting that the dam will be set up according to their own plans and in occupied Syrian lands, according to the writer.

The writer demanded that the government publish details about the projected dam, as provided for in the peace treaty, so that no confusion can linger in the minds of the public.

He said that the public has the right to know the facts, especially as the Israeli statements continue to conflict with those of the Jordanian announcements about the project.

A writer for Al Ra'i criticised the recent conference, held in Amman, of opposition groups in Jordan and Palestine on ways of defending Arab Jerusalem.

Sultan Hattab said that the statements of the conferees and the final resolutions can by no means serve as a catalyst to unite the Palestinians because they were directed against the

Palestine Liberation Organisation, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The writer said that the conference ignored the ongoing sacrifices of the Palestinian leadership and people in confronting the Israeli occupation measures and did not focus attention on ways to save the Palestinians from the continued repression and blockade imposed on them, by the Israelis, and rather, came up with criticism of the Palestinian National Authority.

The writer recalled that while the negative attitude of the opposition was manifesting itself in Amman, the PNA was holding a conference grouping all factions in Palestine with a very positive attitude, reflecting desire to unite the various Palestinian factions.

Oreih Rintawi, a writer for Al Dustour, voiced appreciation of Greece which has called on the world community to impose economic sanctions on Israel for its continued repression and collective punishment imposed on the Palestinians.

The writer said not a single Arab country has made such a demand and no Arab regime has directed its attention to saving the Palestinians in deed rather than word.

While the Arabs are busying themselves with issues like whether to attend the Doha economic summit or not, the Israelis are continuing to strangle the Palestinian people, said the writer.

Yasser Arafat was right when, after the 1982 Israel invasion of Lebanon, he decided to go to Greece rather than seek refuge in Arab countries, said the writer who praised the Greek for their continued support for the Palestinian cause.

Commenting on the situation in the occupied Arab lands, a writer for Al Aswaq said that the Israelis chose to strangle the Arab town of Bethlehem in order to deprive the Palestinians of the source of income that comes through tourism.

Mousa Hawash said that Bethlehem, the birth place of Jesus Christ, is known to be living off tourists who visit the holy places and Israel selected that particular town in order to deny its inhabitants of their livelihood, in a further show of criminal actions and repression against the Palestinian people.

By continuing their repression and pressure on the Palestinians, the Israelis seek to humiliate the Arabs and force them to accept all Tel Aviv's dictates, said the writer.

The Israeli government imposed its closure on all the Palestinian lands without determining the identity of the perpetrators of the double suicide attacks in Jerusalem, and by singling out Bethlehem to remain under the blockade, said the writer. The Israelis have clearly manifested their disregard for the feelings of the Christians in general and Christian tourists in particular.

Yasser Zaareh, a writer for Al Dustour, reflected on the dialogue between the opposition parties and the government and said that the Muslim Brotherhood, which decided to boycott the elections, must promptly take a final decision concerning its participation in the coming elections.

Acting in light of the recent prime minister's lecture to the World Affairs Council, in which he clearly showed the government's decision to hold on to its position, the Muslim Brotherhood should understand that the dialogue is pointless, said the writer.

He added that as long as the government insists on the one-person, one-vote election system and the recent amendments to the Press and Publications Law, both of which are opposed by the Brotherhood, there can be no positive result from the dialogue.

The writer said the picture is now clear and the Muslim Brotherhood is called upon to declare the failure of the dialogue since nothing of substance has been discussed and no change in the government position has materialised.

Mohammad Daoud, another Al Dustour columnist, reflected on the continuing rise in the prices of vegetables and fruits, noting that since the floating of prices, the limited-income groups have been suffering.

The writer said that the government's decision to allow prices to be floated opened the way for the merchants to set any kinds of prices and offer any kind of items to the consumers, at will.

Without control of prices and without government intervention, the plight of the limited-income groups will exacerbate and the markets will continue to witness confusion, warned the writer.

He said the hiking of prices by merchants does not help the farmers and the agricultural producers in any way, but rather helps the wholesale dealers earn more profits because they hold the key in this equation, by offering the lowest possible price to the farmers for their produce and charging the highest possible price from the consumers.

# Israel's dilemma — to ratify weapons convention or not

By Steve Rodan

The article below is reprinted from the  
Aug. 17 issue of The Jerusalem Post

JANUARY 1993: It might have been winter in Paris, but inside the huge convention hall it was the spring of optimism for free-foreign minister Shimon Peres as he participated in the festive signing of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

After initial hesitation, Israel agreed to sign and over the next few months government officials were optimistic that the peace process would give rise to a Middle East ready to discuss the elimination of chemical and eventually of all non-conventional weapons.

Today, more than four years later, the opposite has occurred. The peace process has ground to a halt and Israel's Arab neighbours are amassing chemical weapons and ballistic missiles at a pace that would indicate an effort to counter Israel's purported nuclear arsenal.

Talk about bad timing. Now Israel is being asked to ratify the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) that would result in full reporting of any capability as well as being open to inspections of secret facilities.

The question is should Israel ratify and when? The government is torn between ratification and the possible exposure of its non-conventional arsenal to Arab enemies or refusing to ratify and being subjected to economic sanctions.

"It's one of the most important strategic debates this country has seen in many years," a senior government source says.

"Israel is in a dilemma and any decision it makes will have serious repercussions," Time is short. The CWC took effect on April 29 and so far 97 countries have ratified the treaty. Some officials say Israel has only weeks to do the same before it comes up against international pressure.

As a result, the issue is being feverishly discussed in the Defence Ministry and within the ministerial committee on security.

Israeli officials say it is clear that this will be the only country in the Levant ratifying the treaty. Most Arab countries refuse to sign the CWC until Israel signs the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. This includes Egypt and Syria, both of which have large chemical weapons arsenals. Iran has signed the treaty, which has been ratified in parliament, but Tehran has not delivered the ratification notice to the United Nations.

"The issues are security and deterrence," says Gerald Steinberg, director of the Arms Control and Proliferation Research Programme at Bar-Ilan University's Begin-Sadat Centre for Strategic Studies. "The question is whether Israel gets deterrent value from ambiguity on chemical weapons."

"The second issue is the impact on the chemical industry. Countries that don't sign will pay a large penalty if the requirements of the treaty are enforced."

The CWC is regarded as the most intrusive and complex treaty ever enacted. The goal of the convention is to eliminate chemical weapons by the year 2007. Each of the signatories pledges to begin reporting on its past and current chemical weapons stockpiles and facilities within 30 days and to start destroying them within 90 days.

Under the treaty, a country can challenge the veracity of the information given by another signatory. So, a North African nation that has ratified the treaty can demand an inspection of Israel's facilities, accusing them of having chemical weapons.

Others on the committee argue that exposure of Israel's chemical weapons arsenal will lead its Arab enemies to believe that Israel will use its purported nuclear weapons to retaliate against any chemical weapons attack. This, they argue, will serve as an even greater deterrent to an Arab chemical weapons attack.

housing unreported chemical weapons.

The most likely target is the Nuclear Research Centre at Dimona.

The only way a country can block such an inspection is to obtain a majority of the executive body of the Organisation of the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. The body must be convinced that the request is frivolous and that such a facility could not possibly contain chemical weapons. A country demanding such an inspection cannot include its representatives on the multinational team that would visit the site.

For Israeli officials, the ramifications of such a convention are dizzying. Israel has for decades resisted international pressure to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and for inspections of the Dimona facility. Officials cannot fathom agreeing to any outside examination of the site.

"Ratifying the CWC would give the Arabs an immediate advantage," a government expert says. "Most of the Arab countries would refuse to sign the CWC and could keep all of their weapons. But the two or three countries that ratify the treaty would use it solely to get into our facilities and learn everything that they've been dying to know about us."

The question now regards tactics. The ministerial committee is itself divided on the issue. In a meeting on July 9, National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon warned against ratifying the CWC, saying the move would endanger Israel. Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai suggested that Israel ratify the agreement and rely on U.S. support in interpreting the treaty.

At one point, according to a source who monitored the meeting, Sharon accused Mordechai of being "too close to the Americans." Mordechai denied this, saying, "I am operating solely in an objective manner. Our relations with the Americans are excellent. I believe it is good that the U.S. is on our side." Neither Mordechai nor Sharon would discuss his position on the Chemical Weapons Convention.

The discussions in the government on whether to recommend ratification of the CWC is being chaired by David Ivry, special adviser to Mordechai and head of the Committee on Arms Control.

Ivry's committee has not drafted any recommendations but the chairman is said to feel that Israel will eventually have to ratify the treaty. Ivry has refused to be interviewed on the subject.

A key issue is what conclusions the Arabs will draw from their knowledge of any Israeli chemical weapons programme. Some experts argue that they are highly interested in Israel's chemical weapons capability precisely because they themselves are producing such weapons.

"The problem is that fulfilling these conditions of the convention will cause an important element of Israel's deterrent equation to disappear," Reuven Pedazur, director of the Gali Centre for Strategy and National Defence, says. "This will be especially grave if the Arab states maintain their refusal to join the treaty. So, a situation will be created whereby most of the countries in the region, except for Israel, will have chemical weapons."

Others on the committee argue that exposure of Israel's chemical weapons arsenal will lead its Arab enemies to believe that Israel will use its purported nuclear weapons to retaliate against any chemical weapons attack. This, they argue, will serve as an even greater deterrent to an Arab chemical weapons attack.

Avner Cohen, senior fellow the U.S.

Institute of Peace who specialises in nuclear proliferation and arms control, says the most important question is whether Israeli security requires chemical weapons.

"I think the unequivocal answer is no," Cohen says. "The military utility of chemical weapons was never demonstrated in the battlefield in the first place and I cannot see any conceivable situation in which Israel would be persuaded to use chemical weapons."

"The deterrent value of chemical weapons for Israel, given its nuclear image, is very marginal," Cohen agrees with Israeli defense experts who argue that exposing an absence of chemical weapons would actually encourage Arab states to launch a strike of chemically-tipped ballistic missiles. He says the probability of a first use of Syrian chemical weapons against Israel is low, with Damascus deterred by Israel's purported nuclear arsenal.

The argument to ratify the treaty is primarily financial. One of the penalties of refusal to join the CWC is that the offending country will be barred from the supply of raw materials used in the pharmaceutical and petrochemical industry. This would hurt Israel's rapidly growing high-technology industry.

And when should Israel ratify the treaty?

Some officials argue that ratification should come within the next few months or even weeks so Israel can join the verification committees of the CWC.

"If you want to be influential, then you have to be the first," an official says. "The longer you wait the more marginal you become." Other officials, however, have argued that Israel should wait as long as possible until ratifying the treaty. By then, Israel will have determined whether Iran has indeed ratified the treaty and open its facilities to inspection and whether sanctions will be applied to those which have not ratified, such as Syria and Egypt.

"Some think there is an urgency in making a decision," Steinberg says. "I think we should wait a few months and see whether Iran ratifies and we'll see the degree to which it honours the convention." At a meeting of the ministerial committee on July 16, several ministers advised that Israel ratify the treaty but reserve the right to bolt the convention if its Arab neighbours do not join CWC.

The debate is connected to the U.S. position on Israeli ratification. Some officials have maintained that the Clinton administration will demonstrate understanding of Israel's position, the way it did regarding the 1995 debate over the extension of the NPT. Other officials said President Bill Clinton has been such an enthusiastic supporter of the CWC that he will expect Israel to ratify the convention in the coming months.

Eliot Cohen, a consultant to the U.S. Defence Department and a professor at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies, says Congress will probably understand Israel's hesitancy to ratify the CWC. "Israel might well get a sympathetic hearing, particularly if the Arab states refuse to go along with it [the CWC]," he says.

Cohen agrees. "As of now, I do not see signs of U.S. interest in being too close to the point of confrontation and pressure," he says. "It is unlikely that the president would do something in the present political context. But in other circumstances — such as the deterioration of U.S.-Israel relations — this might be an issue."

Featur  
Educati  
and

By Richard Tanner

THIS century, with high rates, people focused on the past, pushing traditional values and knowledge into the generations. Now, improvements in health care and health rates have made the death rates particularly in children, causing a rapid change in the population. As these children grow up, there is insufficient land and livestock to feed them, so many are going to towns looking for work. Traditional rural skills needed to be replaced by education and training for jobs in the towns. Schools are teaching the children, writing the names of Dickens.

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## Education — key to prosperity and economic supremacy

By Richard Tanner

DURING THIS century, Jordan has developed from a traditional subsistence society to a largely urbanised service economy. It is thus interesting to see how its education system has kept pace with this rapid change and where it should be heading in the future.

In the 1900s, with high death rates, people focused on survival, passing traditional values and knowledge down the generations. After 1920, improvements to water supplies and health care made the death rates fall, particularly in children, causing a rapid increase in the population number. As these children grew up, there was insufficient land and livestock to support them, so many migrated to towns looking for work. Traditional rural survival skills needed to be supplemented by education and training for jobs in these towns, so schools developed, teaching the equivalent of the "Three Rs": the reading, writing and "rhythmic of Dickensian Britain."

At this century's close, Jordan, with a very low death rate and a falling birth rate, finds itself in a third stage of demographic development. Although the number of children born is not increasing much, these children are growing into adulthood, swelling the

workforce. Rural emigration is still occurring, but the main growth is from within towns and cities. Traditional skills and the Three Rs are giving way to the learning needed to succeed in the mechanised, urbanised Jordan of today. And as the world shrinks into the global village of tomorrow, Jordan's education system will need to compete with that of this rapidly developing world.

As the death rate falls and families realise they can survive with fewer children, the focus of education changes, from quantity to quality. Education that will help meet the needs of modern industry and commerce is expensive, but if families have fewer children, they can invest more per child — the symbiotic link between education and fertility rates.

The country too has a unique opportunity to improve the quality of education for, as the demographic balance moves in favour of the workforce, these workers can and should invest heavily in improved education. It takes just two generations until today's children move into old age where the costs of supporting their retirement impose a heavy burden on future workers, as Japan is now discovering.

As Jordan moves to this new demographic stage, perhaps it should learn from the education systems

of the countries already there. Japan, S. Korea, Singapore, Thailand and Malaysia have each invested heavily in their children's education. Literacy and numeracy are emphasised and though science and technology are taught passively, achievement of skill levels is noticeably higher in all these areas than in the West. Governments control education tightly, parents pressure children to achieve, students and teachers are highly motivated, the competition is fierce. Time spent in school is long, both in days per year and in hours per day, followed by homework and extra coaching. Large numbers stay on into further and higher education, graduating into well-paid, respected government or business jobs.

Education has been a major plank from which these countries of E. Asia have plunged and transformed themselves into Tiger economies. With few resources, besides its people and location, Japan has, within four generations, metamorphosed from a feudal society into a technological leader which rivals the larger U.S. and EU.

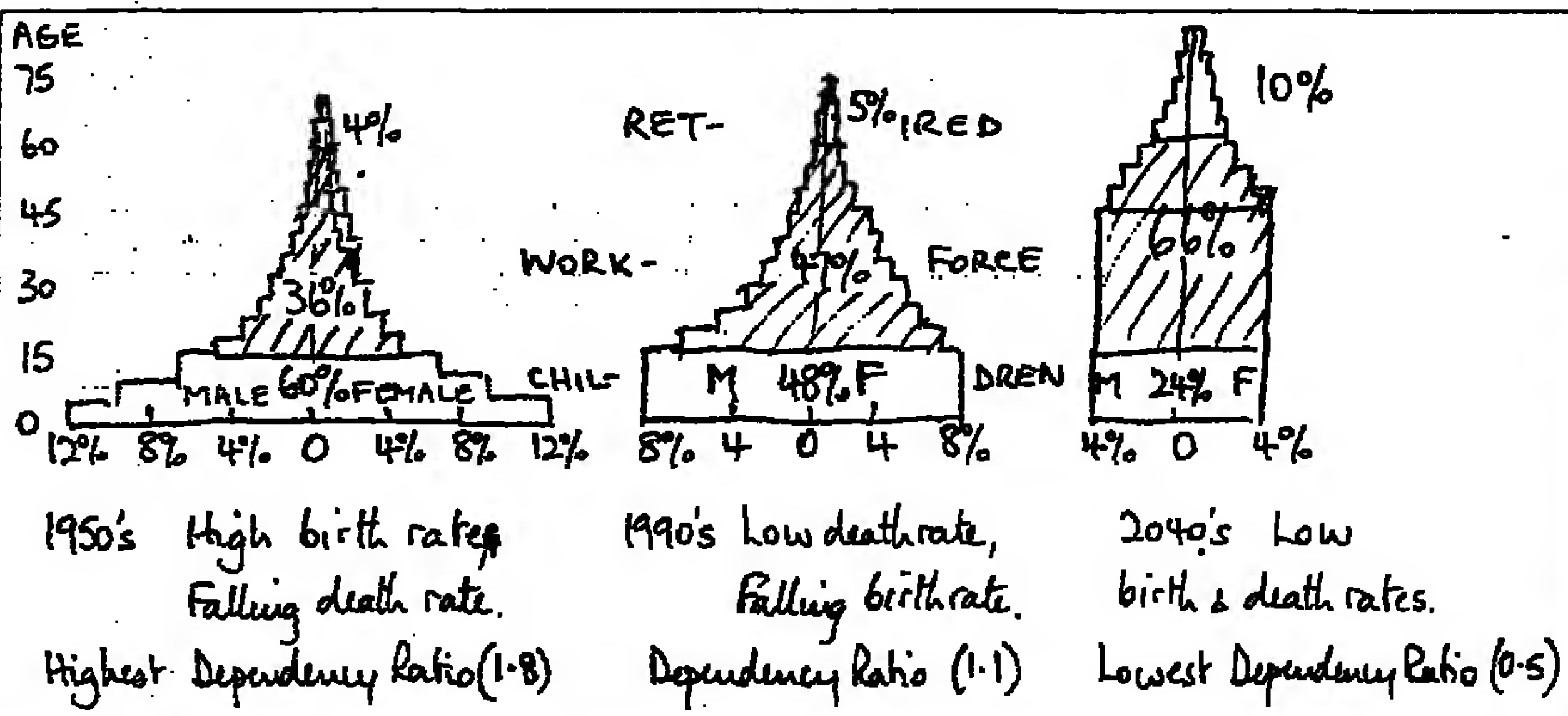
Of course, educating the masses has its political dangers. If the leaders of a country undergoing demographic change fail to react or attempt to suppress the growing middle-class, revolution is inevitable as in

late eighteenth century France or early twentieth century Russia or, more recently, Egypt, Ethiopia and Iran. However, if the democratic process is allowed to pursue its course, as in Scandinavia, Britain or the East Asian countries mentioned, then evolution is more likely.

Jordan, thanks to the astuteness of its leadership, has followed this evolutionary path so far. However, as a newly enriched elite emerges — those educated and successful in business and commerce — this wealthy minority needs to share the growing prosperity of the Kingdom more wisely to avoid the problems that have dogged many S. American countries. This elite should have little to fear from educating the masses, for the better educated they are, the more will the young men and women of tomorrow be able to increase the wealth and prosperity of Jordan.

A well-educated democracy will not allow itself to go the way of Burma or Cambodia or slide into another Balkans. Education and democracy can help transform the Kingdom into an Arab version of an Eastern Tiger economy.

The writer is teacher of geography at the Baccalaureate School, Amman. He contributed the above article to the Jordan Times.



## Asia firm promises liberation from laptops

TAIPEI (R) — For globe-trotting executives who thought it would free them to work almost anywhere, the laptop computer has turned out to be a mixed blessing.

These machines do fit on one's lap, but those who carry them soon find the word "portable" to be a rather unfunny joke. So now one Hong Kong-based company hopes to free the Asian "road warrior" from his laptop computer.

Laptops are nearer in size to a college dictionary with the heft of a sizeable sack of potatoes. Slung from the shoulder for a plane, your productivity tool quickly and often painfully makes its presence known.

Nor have they necessarily made life easier in the many parts of the developing world where telecommunication links are non-standard, cumbersome and costly — particularly in Asia.

Asia's savviest travellers carry home-made wiring rigs and often can be found burrowing beneath the hotel bed, stripping phone wires to hot-wire their modems.

But even then, balky long-distance links to the home office or Internet easily can cost hundreds of dollars a day.

Not everyone loves their laptop "everyone hates to carry a laptop and all the problems that carrying a laptop creates," says Elizabeth Hernandez, one such

laptop-lugging road warrior who finally had enough.

Ms. Hernandez is one of four partners of I-Quest Corp who founded the Hong Kong startup with a simple goal — liberating travelling executives from their laptops.

Their solution? To equip hotel rooms with feature-packed, Internet-linked computers running a palette of business, network and information software in a package they call worldroom.

Worldroom allows hotel guests to connect to their own e-mail accounts, surf the world wide web, use the latest versions of the corel, lotus and Microsoft business software "suites" and tap the Reuters business briefing database.

The system includes a laser or inkjet printer, copy and fax functions, games and even links to printshops for rush jobs — all at a flat cost to the guest or hotel of \$20 a day.

A round-the-clock business centre in your room "we're trying to be a 24-hour business centre in the hotel room," Ms. Hernandez said. "No one likes business centres, the long waits, inconvenient hours, paying for every fax and copy."

"Imagine working in the privacy of your room, at any hour, with no interruptions. It's a totally different experience."

It's an experience Asian hotel chains are keen to offer.

Just a year old on Aug. 15, I-Quest has put worldroom in executive rooms at Manila's peninsula and Shangri-La and Hong Kong's Hyatt Regency. Installations are planned for top hotels in Hong Kong, Taipei, Singapore, Shanghai and Seoul.

I-Quest President Anthony Blass, in an Internet interview, said the parents of both the Hyatt and Peninsula were in talks with I-Quest about establishing global worldroom franchises.

Capitalised at \$30 million and focused on Asia, I-Quest is aiming at 170,000 rooms at 2,500 Pacific Rim hotels, he said.

Notably, worldroom was designed not by hotshot cybergeeks dazzled by their own programming prowess, but by long-suffering journalists and executives who are gambling they are not the only frequent fliers who hate schlepping computers.

"We've all basically bet our life's savings on this," Ms. Hernandez, I-Quest's marketing chief, said during a recent sales swing through Taipei. "We believe in the concept."

Business plan eyes hotel partnerships expecting imitators, I-Quest hopes its unusual business model will win a fast foothold in Asia's best business hotels.

Much to hoteliers' delight, I-Quest finances the \$3,000 systems it installs, leaving just the wiring to the hotel. But the hotel must make a strong

commitment to promote worldroom.

"The key element is marketing. That's the only obligation we ask. The hotel must market this aggressively," Ms. Hernandez said.

"Hotels like it because it cuts their business centre costs. And they can distinguish themselves with a premium service."

Worldroom is itself a marketing tool, featuring conspicuous but unobtrusive promotions for I-Quest's corporate partners.

"We have research showing that people would be willing to spend \$30-\$35 a day for such a package," Ms. Hernandez said. "With our advertising model we can keep the cost low at \$20."

Ms. Hernandez says worldroom is particularly attractive to women, citing market research showing that one in four female executives would leave their laptop at home given the choice. The rate for men was one in seven.

"Of course, we don't think all executives are going to give up their laptops anytime soon, but the more they can rely on another system, the better," she said.

"Here's a way to create documents and presentations, use the Internet, your own e-mail, communicate with the home office — all without the hassle of reconfiguring in each city. Some people will leave their laptops at home."

## Visit

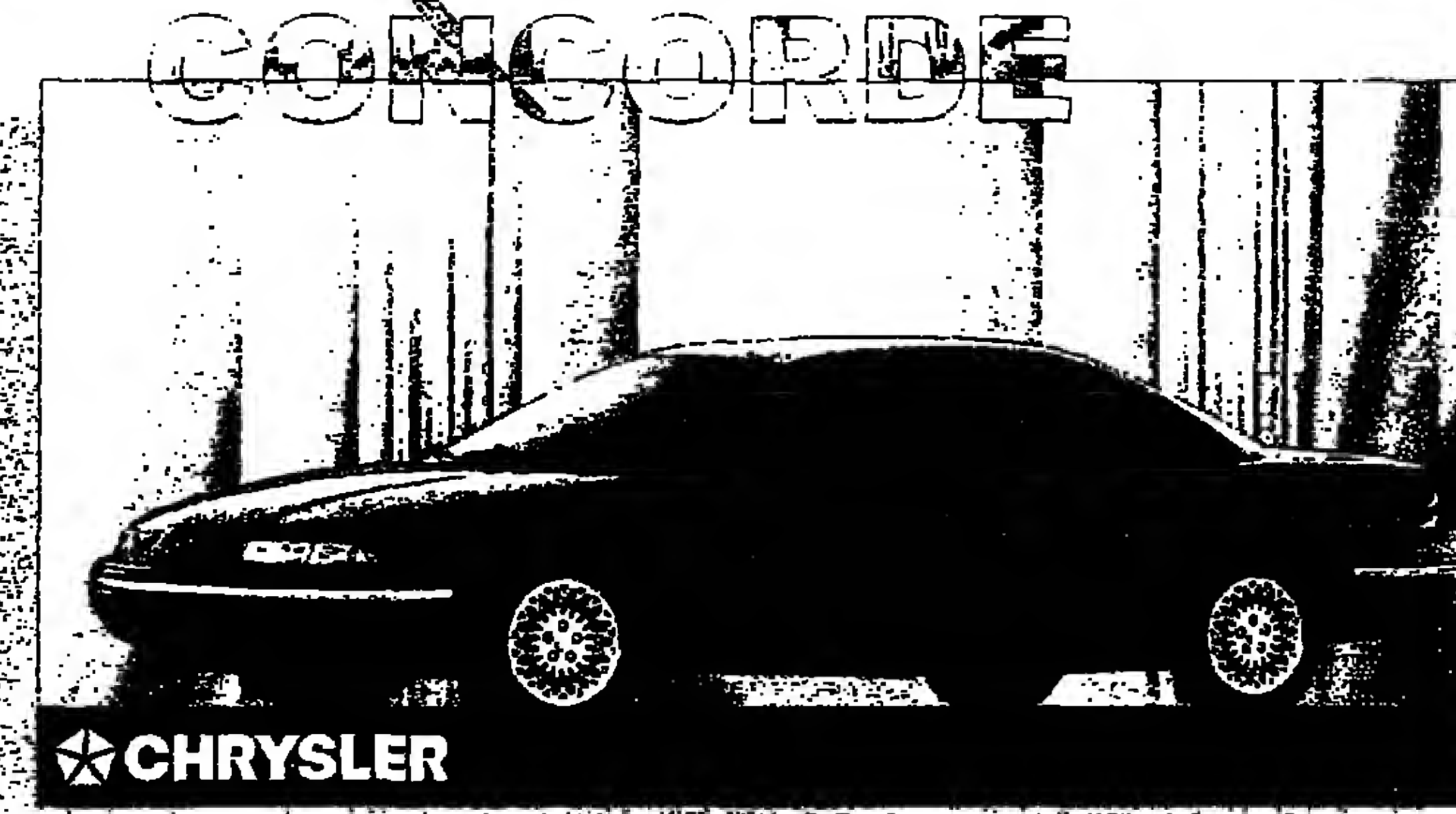
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# Norsk Hydro, Jordan Phosphate Mines to set up \$600m project

By Tareq Ayyoub  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan and Norway signed an agreement to establish one of the largest phosphate projects in the Kingdom with a \$600 million capital.

The accord, signed between the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) and Norsk Hydro on Thursday, will enable the new firm to produce 440,000 tonnes of phosphoric acid and 1.2 million tonnes of fertilisers annually.

The Jordanian share in the project will be 40 per cent of the capital, while the Norwegian firm will pay the remaining capital. The two shares amount to \$240 million.

"The remaining \$360 million of the capital will be obtained through foreign loans."

The JPMC's share will be 15 per cent, Arab Potash Company will pay 15 per cent of the capital and the Social Security Corporation

share will amount to five per cent of the capital.

The project involves the establishment of phosphoric acid plant at the phosphate mines (in Eshidiya) and a fertiliser plant in Aqaba, said Syverre Bjerkamp, vice president of the Norwegian firm.

He told the Jordan Times that Jordan's phosphate and potash are good quality raw materials and that Aqaba is a very good port for the market in Asia. "This kind of fertiliser will have a very strong increase in demand in the Asian market," Mr. Bjerkamp said.

"We have not assigned a specific market but it is quite obvious that this fertiliser will be strongly needed in markets like China, India and other parts of Asia," he said.

"This is a very large project, we will concentrate on this, but of course in the long-term, if this is a successful cooperation, this will give us the basis for expanding here in Jordan," he added.

The Norwegian firm is one of the world's leading industries in petrochemicals, iron and steel and fertilisers. The Oslo government owns 51 per cent of the capital.

Deputy Prime Minister for Development Affairs Jawad Anani, who attended the signing ceremony, said the project is "a step that would improve the balance of payments of Jordan. It will also enhance our international profile as a fertiliser producer country."

Dr. Anani said the project is "a part of a chain in a well defined plan to develop the country's fertiliser industry."

The minister said the project will require infrastructure, such as transportation facilities, including the building of a railroad between Eshidiya and Aqaba.

Production at the two plants is expected to start by the year 2001. Chairman of Board of Directors of the JPMC,

Mohammed Mahdi Farhan, said his firm's long-term goal is to produce 10 million tonnes of fertiliser annually, adding that feasibility studies indicate that the Eshidiya mines contain 1,200 million tonnes of phosphate.

Earlier this year, the JPMC signed an agreement with four Japanese companies to establish a plant to produce a 300,000 tonnes of fertiliser each year. The total production will be exported to Japan.

Another agreement was signed with India to establish a plant in Eshidiya that will produce 225,000 tonnes of fertiliser annually.

Last year figures indicate that the Kingdom's annual exports of phosphate totalled \$127 million compared with \$105 million in 1995, while potash exports totalled \$126 million in 1996 compared with \$122 million the previous year.

## U.S. firm to study expansion, modernisation of Jordan Refinery to cope with rising demand

By Soleiman Al Khalidi  
Reader

AMMAN — Jordan's Petroleum Refinery Company (JPRC) said Friday it was embarking on a major scheme to modernise and expand the country's sole refinery to cope with rising products demand until 2010.

"We expect the refinery's expansion and modernisation to be completed by 2002. It will raise capacity from 100,000 barrels per day (bpd) to 170,000 bpd with new units in operation by then," Abdul Wahab Al Zubi, director general of JPRC, said.

Mr. Zubi told Reuters that the Zarqa refinery expansion project, at an estimated \$400-\$500 million cost, was a strategic move to meet future growing local demand on products until 2010.

Product consumption rates are growing at an average four per cent annually. A two-year revamping project at a cost of \$20 million to raise capacity by mid-1998 to 100,000 bpd from an existing 75,000

bpd would only meet demand until 2001.

The refinery has come to rely solely on Iraqi crude oil after Saudi Arabia cut oil exports through the Tapline after the 1990 Gulf crisis in retaliation at Amman's pro-Baghdad stance.

Iraqi crude is trucked by tankers under an annual supply accord between Amman and Baghdad, which is exempt from a U.N. embargo imposed on Iraq since its invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

JPRC is a listed firm whose shares are mostly in private hands with a minority government stake and 17 per cent stake held by Arab interests. It has a 50-year concession until 2006 to supply the domestic market with its fuel requirements.

JPRC processed 3.2 million tonnes of Iraqi crude in 1996 and imported 1.2 million tonnes of various products.

U.S. engineering firm M.W. Kellogg was awarded on Aug. 19 a contract to undertake a feasibility study to see how to modernise the

refinery and implement its expansion scheme.

"The aim of the study is (for) two reasons." The first is to define the expansion required to raise the refinery's capacity from 100,000 bpd to 160,000 bpd and the other is to improve the quality of the petroleum products processed," Mr. Zubi said.

Kellogg was picked from a list of three short-listed firms, ABB/Lummus and Bechtel, who bid to undertake the study which is to be completed by first quarter 1998 under a \$500,000 grant from the U.S. Trade and Development Agency (TDA), Mr. Zubi said.

"This expansion project is of utmost importance and any mistakes will affect the overall cost," Mr. Zubi said, stressing how vital the study's outcome to the future of the refinery.

JPRC expects to proceed immediately after the study on the expansion and modernisation scheme to add new units processing more desulphurised diesel and unleaded gasoline.

"Our products are up to global standards but there is

a need to ensure they also meet future specifications," Mr. Zubi said.

Mr. Zubi said the expansion scheme, the fourth since the refinery was commissioned in 1951, would help bring more flexibility in adapting to changing local consumption patterns. Jordan's reliance on fuel oil for industrial uses has forced over 40 per cent of the refinery's processing to cater for this demand at the expense of other higher yield products.

But ambitious projects, such as plans by U.S. Amoco to export Egyptian gas by pipeline to Jordan's power plants, would allow the refinery to reduce fuel oil processing, Mr. Zubi added.

The Kellogg study would also review supply options other than reliance on Iraqi crude, mainly a product of the Gulf crisis.

But a pipeline to transport oil from Iraq once U.N. economic sanctions are lifted on Baghdad would sharply reduce trucking costs and make Iraqi crude sourcing more attractive, Mr. Zubi said.

## REUTERS

## REUTERS

### The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates Prices as at 24/08/97 20:21									
US Dollar	1.0000	1.5402	0.8301	1.5185	117.45	1.2527	1201.25	2.0000	0.2223
DE Mark	0.6417	1.5870	2.9315	0.8225	184.25	0.7125	1286.75	0.3333	0.8942
GB Sterling	0.6984	1.2142	0.7411	0.8225	166.25	0.6925	1286.75	0.3333	0.8942
CH Franc	0.0085	1.5711	0.5357	1.2927	1.1858	15.32	175.86	0.2957	
JP Yen	0.0075	1.3305	0.4592	1.0844	1.1858	15.32	175.86	0.2957	
CA Dollar	0.0008	1.0251	0.3498	0.8843	1335.10	0.7738		11.54	0.4043
IT Lira	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
FR Franc	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000

Middle Eastern Currencies									
US Dollar	1.0000	0.7080	0.7008	0.5770	0.5400	0.5053	0.4728	1538.00	0.3400
Jordan Dinar	1.0000	0.1888	0.1888	0.1888	0.1888	0.1888	0.1888	0.1888	0.1888
Saudi Riyal	0.2500	0.2500	0.2500	0.2500	0.2500	0.2500	0.2500	0.2500	0.2500
Syrian Lira	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.1945	1.0304	1.0304	0.0838	1.01	422.53	0.0289	
Kuwait Dinar	0.2747	0.1945	1.0304	1.0304	0.0838	1.01	422.53	0.0289	
Emirate Dinar	0.2747	0.1945	1.0304	1.0304	0.0838	1.01	422.53	0.0289	
Libyan Dinar	0.2747	0.1945	1.0304	1.0304	0.0838	1.01	422.53	0.0289	
Egyptian	0.2747	0.1945	1.0304	1.0304	0.0838	1.01	422.53	0.0289	

Energy			
Brent	18.99	19.17	
WTI	20.14	20.04	
Bonny	18.99	19.17	
Dubai	17.89	17.79	
UL Gas	217.00	213.00	

Mid-East Currencies			
SA Riyal	0.2500	0.4025	0.1675
AE Dirham	0.2500	0.4025	0.1675
KW Dinar	0.2500	0.4025	0.1675
BY Dinar	0.2500	0.4025	0.1675
CY Pound	0.2500	0.4025	0.1675

Metal Prices			
Gold (oz's)	322	323.5	
Silver (oz's)	6.52	6.51	
Platinum (oz's)	413	418	
AL (3 Months)	1644	1645	
CU (3 Months)	2188	2190	
Zinc (3 Months)	1404	1405	
Lead (3 Months)	620	623	
Ni (3 Months)	6720	6750	

Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)			
USD	0.43	0.59	0.60
JPY	0.44	0.45	0.45
DEM	0.44	0.45	0.45
FRF	0.44	0.45	0.45
ITL	0.44	0.45	0.45

Main Equity Indices			
New York	DOW JONES	7984.52	-28.71
New York	S&P 500	1058.34	-0.34
London	FT-SE 100	4983.7	25.3
Tokyo	Nikkei 225	15172.12	-10.17
Paris	CAC 40	2960.63	-15.64
Frankfurt	DAX	2263.67	-10.24

Energy			
Coffee (c/b)	170	Spot	
Cocoa (c/b)	180	Spot	
Sugar (c/b)	347.8	Spot	
Wheat (c/b)	1.15	Spot	
Soybean (c/b)	22.02	Spot	
Tea (c/b)	1.00	Spot	
Barley (c/b)	0	Spot	
Rice (c/b)	0	Spot	

JOD Cross Rates			
US Dollar	0.708	0.710	
GB Sterling	0.698	0.699	
DE Mark	0.3308	0.3327	
CH Franc	0.0085	0.0085	
JP Yen	0.0075	0.0075	
FR Franc	0.113	0.1134	
CA Dollar	0.3332	0.3339	
IT Lira	0.0000	0.0000	

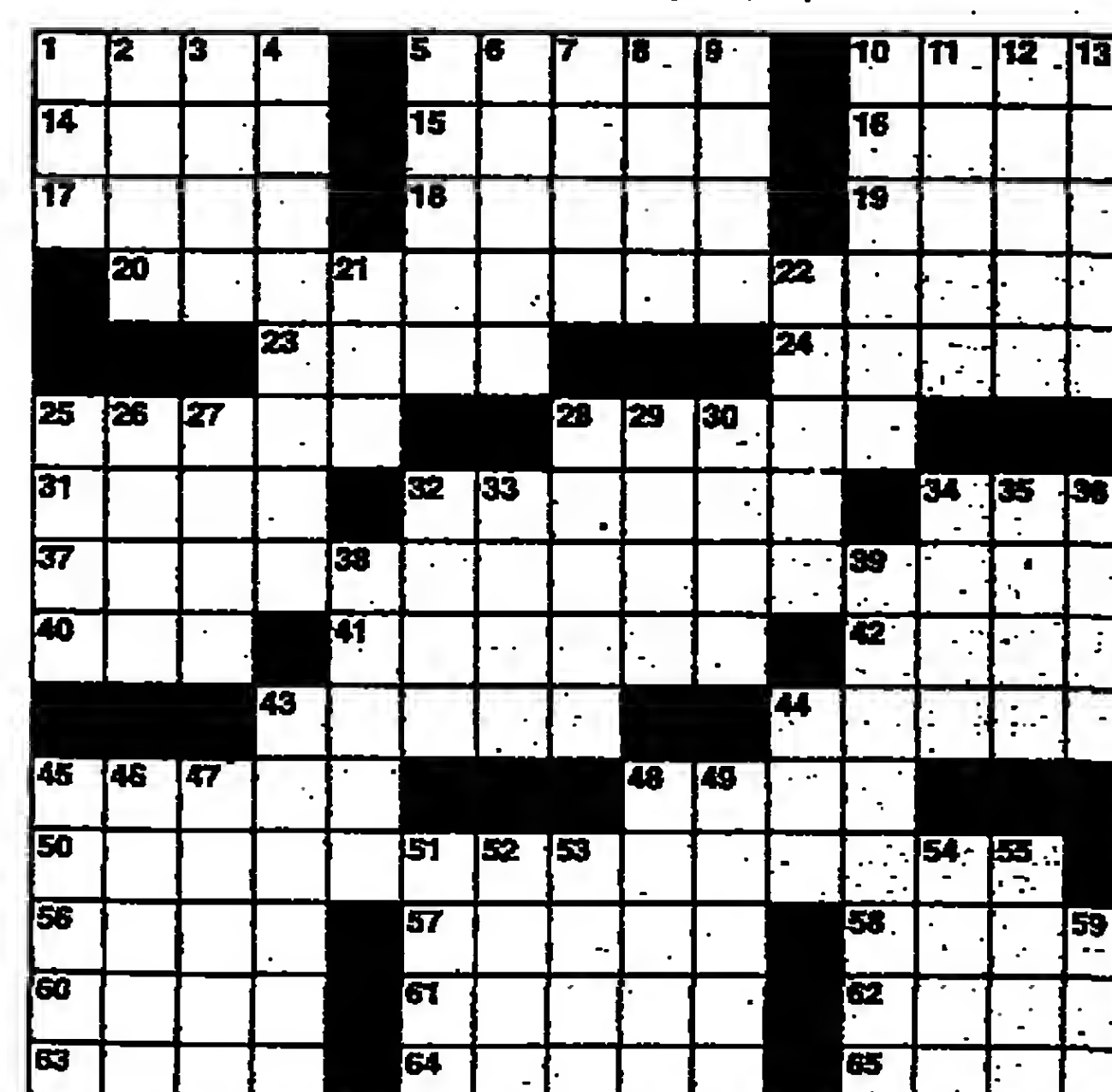
## THE Daily Crossword

### ACROSS

- Cuff
- Fashionable
- Striker's foe
- One of the Hebrides
- City west of Venice
- Roman stoic
- Anguish
- "We All?"
- Not now
- Dessert
- Diva Stevens
- Dallies
- Holy war
- Casts off
- Economist Smith
- Lead astray
- Inventor's monogram
- Line by Donne
- Golfier Ernie
- Beatix's House
- Made good grades
- Attu native
- Like some winter days
- Director Frank
- Missile
- Wayne film
- Pierce
- Old Greek marketplace
- Dash
- Ringlet
- Book of a kind
- Spectral
- Caen's river
- Journeys
- Descartes

### DOWN

- Taste
- Be faintant
- Indigo
- Vista
- Cat fights
- A Curie
- Arabian port
- Resounded
- Actor Jacques
- Burns
- Waterway
- Make up (for)



by William Canine

TOP OF	AMT	MASK
ABABA	MAAS	ALOE
ROUEN	OKRA	ZANY
NELSON	RIDDLE	
RENO	NOTA	PTA
MOO	SLAG	CHRES
ALBS	ACTH	TAILS
MEET	IN THE	MIDDLE
BASER	SERA	JEER
ARONAS	MONT	ART
SYN	NEMO	ORAN
FLITAS	AFIDDLE	
LENG	ATTU	MAJOR
ORYX	ETON	ENOIA
GREY	EFT	ROYAL

- Total confusion
- Foolish
- Moussorgsky
- Disrobe
- me-tangere
- Swiss painter
- Tail tale
- Comedian Louis

## HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, AUGUST 30, 1997

By Thomas S. Pierson,  
Astrologer, Carroll  
Highler Foundation

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Focus on having fun today with and hearing from your most dynamic friends. Get together later this evening, provide a hospitable place to talk about whatever is on your minds, thereby you can resolve any difficulties.

**TALUKUS:** (April 20 to May 20) You can gain insight today on how to be more prosperous from a higher-up. Pay attention to modern trends which could provide you with great benefits. Older persons can be helpful at this time, especially with finances.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Take advantage of early morning vitality today to accomplish a great deal. A great opportunity may slip by if you are lazy to pay attention to any ideas. Get help from a new friend on how to proceed with your career activities.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 22) Try to improve your system for handling practical matters, which can be quite beneficial. Labour as a team with your mate as much as possible. Listen also to children, since out of the mouth of babes comes wisdom.

**LEO:** (July 23 to August 21) Today listen to the undertone who may afford a new angle on making your career activities much more successful. Don't be afraid to work on an ambition. This is the time to repair a faulty contract which could cause difficulties.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Listen to the clever words today of one disguised as a fool. This could benefit you both. Look for media news which make your career activities much easier. Later this evening will be good for setting close friends.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Today is time for arranging a long-sought pleasure, which can be within your grasp. During your spare time later this evening, perfect some special talent which you possess. Focus on your mechanical talents.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) A frustrating home situation can be ameliorated today by utilizing more modern techniques in conjunction with those proven in previous days. Later this evening will be good for meeting with knowledgeable people.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Voice your ideas today and get excellent cooperation. State your aims directly and with great tact. Short trips should progress smoothly and make your career activities much more beneficial and profitable.

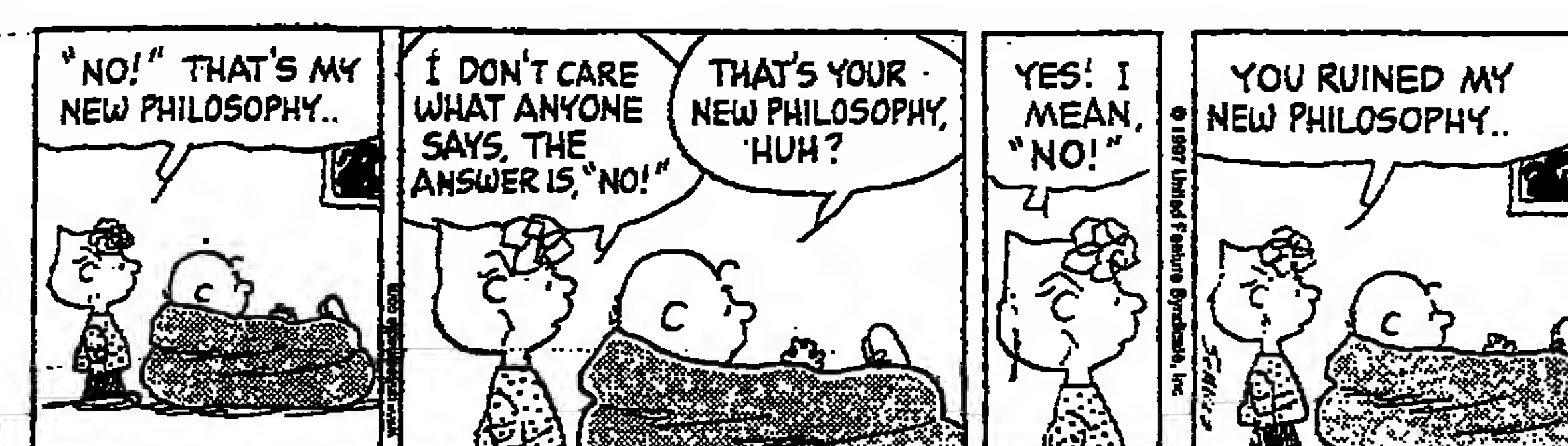
**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Study the latest trends today for ways to improve and modernize your property. Older persons can be helpful at the time, especially in finances. Later evening you can also discuss business ideas with a law associate.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) sociable today and will be happier. Find way to strengthen best friendships. You be surprised by a possibility within a friendship. Later evening you can with your loved one.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Let down the new ideas today for in the days ahead if all of higher-ups are receptive. Have a meeting to discuss daily with your associates which will be quite successful. It be

Baritone of Ading Park at but round

## Peanuts



## Andy Capp



## Mutt'n'Jeff





list 30, 1997  
ROSCOPE  
FORECAST  
SATURDAY  
JULY 30, 1997  
Thomas S. Pierse  
Manager, Career  
Development  
Foundation  
(Mentor)

(March 25)  
Focus on the  
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60

representing seven per cent and 0.2 per cent respectively.

The general price index edged down from 164.86 points to 164.54 points. This 0.39 point decline reflected a 0.18 per cent drop.

The index for the banks and financial institutions registered a 2.7 point (1.26 per cent) rise. The price index for the services and insurance sectors also increased by 0.55 points (0.49 per cent) and by 0.13 points (0.11 per cent) respectively.

The industry sector pulled down the general index by recording a 2.91-point (2.36 per cent) decline in the price index.

By comparing the closing prices of last week with the closing at the end of the previous week, it was found that prices of 27 companies rose while those of 45 firms declined and the prices of the remaining 22 companies stabilised. Shares of 94 companies were traded last week.

*Further information can be obtained from the United Financial Investment Company at the AFM.*

### ***Deadline for insurance companies reportedly extended***

**\*\* THE COUNCIL** of Ministers has agreed to give the insurance companies an additional six months to be able to fulfill the requirement of a capital increase, according to information obtained by AJ Dustomr. An amendment to the insurance law obliges insurance companies to raise their capital to a minimum of JD2 million before Oct. 1, 1997 in order to create large and strong entities.

Raufi Abu Jaber, president of the Federation of Insurance Companies, said the insurance sector has hoped for a one-year extension instead of only six months so as to give the companies enough time to adjust to the requirement. The minister of industry, trade and supply has recommended a one-year extension (AJ Dustomr).

## Government to consider raising salaries

**\*\* THE GOVERNMENT** has entrusted a ministerial committee to study the economic situation, especially the rise in prices and inflation of employees and retired persons at the beginning of next year. The prime minister has expressed the government's intention to raise the salaries and pensions during a meeting he held with Irbid residents last week.

The prime minister said a review of salaries should be conducted annually so that incomes do not get eroded by economic changes. He added that such a review was carried out in 1994 but was discontinued in the following two years. "As such a review of wages now should take into consideration the economic developments during 1995 and 1996 as well as this year," he stressed. The public sector comprises nearly half a million of civil servants and military personnel who are either still working or retired (Al Ra'i).

**THE BETTER HALF.** By Glasbergen

A cartoon by Glasbergen. It depicts a man and a woman in a kitchen. The man, on the left, is wearing a light-colored shirt and a striped tie, looking towards the woman. The woman, on the right, is wearing a dark dress and holding a piece of paper. A small, round, three-eyed creature is peeking out from behind a cabinet on the right. The title 'THE BETTER HALF.' is at the top left, and 'By Glasbergen' is at the top right. The signature 'GLASBERGEN' is in the upper left of the drawing area.

# JUMBLE.

Uncramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

**RAVSO**


**LICCO**


**GINFIX**


**GICART**


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That Scrambled Word Game  
by Hazel Arnold and Milla Arginton

WHY SHE TRIED  
THE CIGAR

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here : 

--	--	--	--

 " 

--	--	--	--

 "

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's

Jumbles: TUNED POKED ESTATE WEAKEN

Answer: Why they climbed to the top of the mountain — TO TAKE A PEAK

Today's


Jumbles: TUNED POKED ESTATE WEAKEN

Answer: Why they climbed to the top of the mountain — TO TAKE A PEAK

**JORDAN TIMES**  
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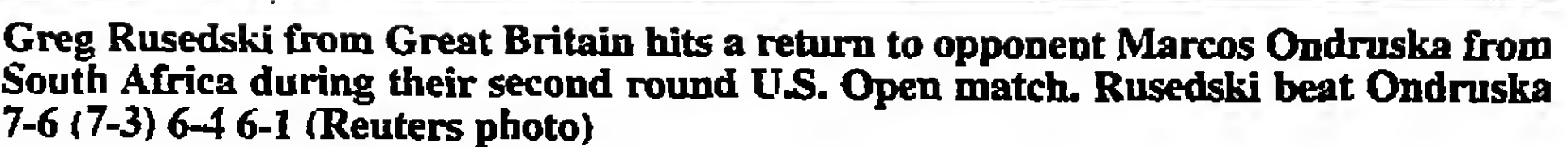
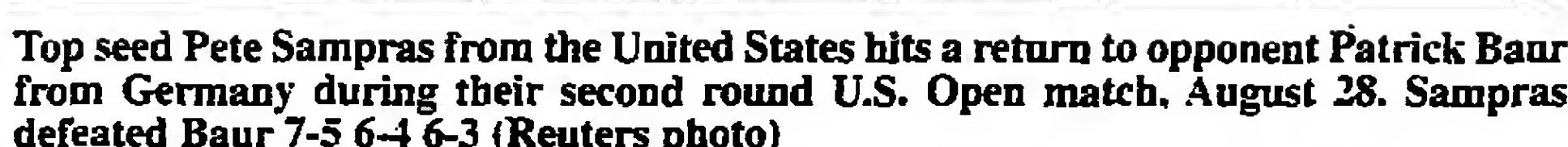
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Tel. 700624 - Fax 604183

ANNUAL FINANCIAL MARKET														SECURITIES	
HOUSING BANK CREDIT - HOUSING														TELEPHONE: 467172 / 467173	
ORGANIZED MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD (27/08/1997 - 27/09/1997)														WEEKLY REPORT	
															
DURING THE LAST 3 WEEKS		COMPANY NAME	P/R	DIV	NO. OF CONTRACTS	NO. OF SHARES RECEIVED	VALUE TRADED	OPENING PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE	AVERAGE MARKET PRICE	NO. OF TRADES	NO. OF TRADING DAYS
RISE	LOW														
295,000	299,000	ARAB BANK	13.6	1.36	80	26080	7604690	240.00	245.00	240.00	245.00	+5.00	292,365	591	5
2,000	1,980	JOR. NATIONAL BANK	-	0.00	74	43393	124911	1.99	1.99	1.94	1.95	-.04	1,970	151	5
1,000	1,050	CALING ANNUAL BANK	10.7	0.00	5	21500	117000	5.30	5.20	5.20	5.20	0.00	5,200	26	1
3,000	3,050	BANK OF COMMERCE	13.6	6.5	8	1092	8	1092	3.05	3.05	3.05	0.00	3,050	1	1
2,370	2,900	KID. NANY DEV. INC.	59.8	0.00	8	2500	2253	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	0.00	4,001	25	1
2,370	2,100	INVESTMENT DEV. INC.	8.3	7.51	18	19230	43902	2.31	2.30	2.25	2.25	-.06	2,281	177	3
4,060	4,750	THE HOUSING INC.	14.4	0.00	33	17100	85605	4.75	4.74	4.75	4.75	0.00	4,751	672	3
1,100	1,100	JOR. NATIONAL BANK	11.0	0.00	29	7074	71803	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00	1,100	1	1
2,950	3,810	JOR. NATIONAL BANK	15.9	0.00	98	7383	287077	3.87	3.87	3.82	3.80	-.09	3,812	503	5
1,330	1,280	UNION BANK DEV. INC.	178.1	0.00	8	1666	2368	1.24	1.27	1.27	1.27	0.00	1,289	101	1
3,340	3,340	JOR. NANY DEV. INC.	21.2	0.00	20	7385	1345	3.25	3.30	3.28	3.30	0.00	3,277	974	4
2,100	2,100	DEV. INC. (NANY)	4	0.00	9	4450	4580	1.00	1.01	1.01	1.01	0.00	1,008	233	1
1,000	1,000	DEV. INC. (NANY)	-	0.00	3	473	437	.95	.95	.92	.92	-.03	.924	205	2
INDEX NUMBER: 247378 9322560 INDEX NUMBER: 216.64 CHANGE: +1.26%															
2,000	2,000	JORDAN INSURANCE	12.6	5.36	1	3000	8400	2.80	2.80	2.80	2.80	0.00	2,800	460	1
1,240	1,240	ARABIAN REAS INSUR.	8.7	0.00	1	3000	8400	2.80	2.80	2.80	2.80	0.00	2,800	460	1
3,000	3,000	JORDANIAN REAS INSUR.	19.7	5.06	2	1000	324	1.29	1.29	1.29	1.29	0.00	1,290	445	1
1,000	1,000	JOR. NANY DEV. INC.	5.6	8.47	9	3500	6250	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	1,000	1	1
2,000	2,000	ARAB NANY DEV. INC.	8.2	4.76	2	350	1115	2.10	2.10	2.10	2.10	0.00	2,102	828	1
2,320	2,320	JORDAN GULF INSUR.	-	0.00	1	950	2309	2.32	2.43	2.43	2.43	0.00	2,432	584	1
2,730	2,730	REAS. ARABIA INSUR.	16.4	5.36	2	1131	2952	2.73	2.61	2.61	2.61	-.14	2,610	900	1
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1,710	1,640	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	8.0	6.02	82	25615	42882	1.69	1.69	1.66	1.66	-.03	1,674	171	5
1,040	1,040	REAS. ELECTRICITY	11.1	8.05	6	1570	2972	1.65	1.66	1.66	1.66	0.00	1,663	952	4
2,900	2,900	REAS. ELECTRICITY	11.1	8.05	1	300	500	2.90	2.95	2.95	2.95	0.00	2,950	1	1
3,000	3,000	SHIPPING LINES	16.2	4.64	3	2350	4582	2.80	2.87	2.80	2.80	-.07	2,801	936	2
1,440	1,440	RAEL. PORTFOLIO	-	0.00	52	44450	61213	1.39	1.41	1.37	1.40	-.01	1,393	889	4
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aisali v

Sampras knows what



"Those dreams are still here until you fulfill them. I still feel I have a good chance."



A 3-2 defeat in Bucharest was turned into a 3-0 loss by ruling body UEFA after they discovered Laurent Fournier, who was supposed to be suspended, actually played.

Auxerre, the 1995/96 French League and Cup double winners, visit Bordeaux on Saturday and coach Guy Roux is expected to name the same side which beat Quimper in the Intertoto Cup.

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## Faisali win Shield final

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Al Faisali Thursday won their fourth Jordan Soccer Federation (JSF) Shield after defeating Al Wihdat 3-2 in extra time to win the second of the season's soccer titles.

Al Faisali joined Al Ramtha and Al Wihdat as four time winners of the Shield in which only Premier League teams competed.

Al Wihdat had won the season's inaugural event — the Cup Winners' Cup — leaving the Jordan Cup and Premier League trophies up for grabs.

With their win Thursday, Al Faisali continued to lead both teams' Shield record at 7-4. Al Faisali had also won their two previous Shield final appearances in 1987 and 1993.

Al Wihdat and Al Faisali will play again next Friday in a delayed Premier League match when the fourth week of the competition resumes Sept. 1 following a two-week break because of Al Wihdat's participation in the Arab Cup Winners' Cup in Egypt.

Thursday's final match was officiated by Saudi referees upon the request of Al Faisali.

The match was due to have been held May 26 but was indefinitely postponed because of Al Faisali's request to enlist foreign referees for the highly-anticipated match grouping the countries' top two teams.

While the JSF regulations bar foreign referees from



Faisal Ibrahim (L) of Al Wihdat fights for the ball with Jafer Hamud from Al Faisali in the Jordan soccer Federation Shield final. Al Faisali won 3-2 (Reuters photo)

officiating local matches, Al Wihdat did not at first object to Faisali's demand but the JSF did not reach a decision, which led to the indefinite postponement of the match.

Citing JSF rules which state that any club refusing to play a final match be considered a loser with a 3-0 result, Al Wihdat then issued a statement stating that they would not play the match and consider themselves the winners.

Following that, Al Faisali asked for a JSF general assembly meeting which also led to a change in the ticket sales formula. However, Al Wihdat rejected the new formula and decided

to boycott the Premier League and Jordan Cup contests.

After meeting with JSF President HRH Prince Abdullah, the club only decided to return to competition after the JSF brought back the old formula regarding revenues, which allocate 35 per cent to the two clubs contesting the match, 35 per cent to be split between the remaining eight clubs in Premier League, 25 per cent to the JSF and 5 per cent to the first and second division clubs.

The formula rejected by Al Wihdat had less for the clubs contesting the match, and more to the JSF.

## Wright charged over Leicester bust-up

LONDON (AFP) — Arsenal's Ian Wright faces the prospect of a lengthy ban after being charged with misconduct by the Football Association for his part in an ugly confrontation in Wednesday's English Premiership clash with Leicester.

Wright's team-mate Patrick Vieira and Leicester City captain Steve Walsh have also been charged, after referee Graham Barber reported the trio to the FA for "adopting an aggressive attitude towards each other after the game."

But it is Wright, given his previous disciplinary record, who has the most to fear if he is found guilty by a disciplinary commission.

It is possible the FA will invoke their "last chance" warning handed out to Wright in June which followed a 15,000 pound (about \$24,000) fine relating to two incidents in April.

Wright, 33, has recently had counselling in an effort to try and curb the type of outburst witnessed at Leicester, but the temperamental Gunner could now be hit with a heavy fine and even a suspension.

The episode is sure to cause embarrassment to the Football Association, who caused controversy by hiring the Arsenal hitman to head an FA advertising campaign.

England star Wright had been substituted in the second half, but ran on to the pitch to join a posse of Arsenal players who surrounded referee Barber after a 95th minute equaliser from Walsh.

Wright then appeared to aim a blow in the direction of Walsh before he was dragged away by his teammates.

## Maradona again tests positive for cocaine

BUENOS AIRES (AFP) — Argentine football star Diego Maradona has for the third time in his career tested positive for illicit drugs, an official with the Argentine Football Association said late Thursday.

The positive test seemed certain to end Maradona's attempted comeback at the age of 36.

When his number was drawn out of the hat for a dope test after Boca Juniors opening match of the season against Argentina Juniors, Maradona reportedly looked aghast.

And when the first test was completed this week it was clear why.

The player who dazzled football fans worldwide with his artistry but whose private life spun wildly out of his control, had been caught again.

Maradona's demise began after he led Argentina to the 1986 World Cup in Mexico. The first man since Pele to be universally hailed as the world's greatest player, suddenly found himself unable to cope with the adulation heaped on him.

Helping Naples to the Italian League and Cup double in 1987, the UEFA Cup in 1989 and the Italian league for a second time in 1990, Maradona was already battling against his inner demons.

Sex, drink and drugs were slowly turning the world's greatest player into an overweight shadow of his former self.

Finally his private life began to create more headlines than his skills on the field. Drug squad officers in Italy became more interested in him than referees were.

In the first drugs case against him, Maradona was convicted in Naples in September 1991 of possessing cocaine and was sentenced to 14 months in jail.

Maradona, sentenced in his absence, left the coun-



Argentine veteran soccer star Diego Maradona, seen in this July 13 file photo playing a friendly match for Boca Juniors, failed a drug test the Argentine Football Association (AFA) announced, the third time Maradona tested positive (Reuters photo)

try for his native Argentina, protesting his innocence.

But trouble followed him. He was also convicted by an Argentine court on drugs charges a few months after his return to Buenos Aires.

The troubled Maradona was clearly struggling to come to grips with his life in the fast lane.

One day he would dismiss the charges against him as fiction. The next he would admit he was hooked on cocaine.

"I was, am and always will be a drug addict. Cocaine never left me free to think and act," he confessed in one soul-baring interview.

He admitted taking drugs for the first time at the age of 22, as he started to make his name in Europe with Barcelona and then Naples.

In an article entitled "How I fought my drugs hell," Maradona told how he took cocaine for the first time in 1982 and how his family — in particular his children — had suffered as a result.

Maradona related how his daughter Gianina once asked him for a cup of

water but he was unable to get up and go to her after collapsing onto his bed in a cocaine-induced stupor.

"I couldn't get up. My hands were trembling," he said.

Gianina again asked him for a drink of water, but he could not go to her.

"The cocaine had put me in a complete haze," he explained.

But Maradona, who was beginning to sign up with as many health clinics as football clubs as he attempted to control his drug habit, still craved the high he got from playing football.

However, now out of shape and out of form except for fleeting glimpses of his genius, Maradona was forced to take new drugs as he joined Argentina in the United

States for the 1994 World Cup.

Caught taking a cocktail of stimulants after a random test, the reason behind his sudden return to form was exposed.

Maradona was thrown out of the World Cup and banned for 15 months.

His signing with Boca Juniors for the third time was supposed to be his final hurrah — when he could end his career on the football field rather than a prison cell.

But his latest positive drugs test has put paid to his final dream. Perhaps the fact that he has managed, despite the sex, drugs and drink, to last so long after his debut at the age of 16, proves that he really once was the world's greatest footballer.

## Madrid derby starts Spanish season

MADRID (AFP) — Following a summer of frantic transfer activity, the Spanish football season kicks off this weekend with an enticing derby between Madrid clubs Real and Atletico.

Some 42 billion pesetas (\$270 million) have changed hands during the close season as the leading clubs shuffled their packs in readiness for the new season, and there will be plenty of expensive talent on show at the intimidating Bernabeu stadium.

Real do have a new coach in Jupp Heynckes and the former Tenerife coach, who replaced the AC Milan-bound Fabio Capello at the end of last season, certainly has grounds for optimism.

Pre-season has gone particularly well for the champions, culminating in a 4-1 thrashing of bitter rivals Barcelona in the second leg of the Spanish Super Cup last Saturday.

Teenage striker Raul scored twice in that match and his performances up front will be key to both Real's defence of their title and their European Champions League campaign.

Saturday's visitors are sure

to provide decent opposition, however, with new signings Juninho, from Middlesbrough, and Christian Vieri, from Juventus, bound to provide them with plenty of creative spark and punch up front.

Atletico have won five of their nine pre-season games and should provide a stiff examination of Clarence Seedorf, Roberto Carlos and company in the Real midfield.

Barcelona have made up for the loss of goal hero Ronaldo to Inter Milan by snapping up two more Brazilians — Sonny Anderson from Monaco and Deportivo La Coruna's Rivaldo.

With former Ajax defender Michael Reiziger and French forward Christophe Dugarry also arriving at the club, Barca's success-hungry fans will be expecting to win

either the championship or the Champions League — preferably both.

Yet Van Gaal has cause for concern regarding his defence. The departure of Laurent Blanc and Gica Popescu has left a soft centre in his back line, a weakness fully exploited by Real Madrid in the Super Cup.

Valencia are another club thinking big this season. Combative French defender Jocelyn Angloma and Auxerre's gifted Algerian midfielder Moussa Saib add a dash of French panache to the squad, but Valencia's jewel in the crown is Brazilian Romario up front.

The star of the last World Cup signed from Flamengo in the summer and Valencia will be hoping he can fire the goals to help them mount a serious title challenge — starting on Sunday at promoted Majorca.

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The U.S. Embassy in Amman has a vacancy for a Press Specialist to advise the Public Affairs and Press Officers in planning, programming and administering public diplomacy media programs and press events. Applicants must have a university degree preferably in liberal arts, journalism, political science, economics, international relations or related fields.

Specialized training in press and publications, radio & TV preferred; 5-7 years experience in communications media as a journalist, broadcaster, advertising executive, public affairs officer, or combination of similar experience; fluency in spoken and written English and Arabic; ability to develop and maintain high level contacts in media and government circles; and good computer skills. Only qualified applicants who meet all of the above should submit an application (available at Embassy gate) to the Personnel Officer prior to September 10, 1997.

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All applications would be dealt with in confidence.

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WITH OMAR SHARIF  
& TAMARA HIRSCH

## A STEP SHORT OF SUICIDE

Neither vulnerable. North deals.

**NORTH**  
♠ 10 6 4  
♥ A 9 8  
♦ A 4 3 2  
♣ K Q 2

**WEST**  
♠ A Q 9 8 2  
♥ J 2  
♦ K 10 9 6  
♣ 10 3

**EAST**  
♠ J 8  
♥ Q 10 5 4 3  
♦ 8 7  
♣ J 9 8 5

**SOUTH**  
♠ K 7 6  
♥ K 8 7  
♦ Q J 5  
♣ A 7 6 4

The bidding:  
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST  
10 Pass 2NT Pass 3NT Pass 4NT Pass

Opening lead: Three of ♠

It is bad enough having to suffer the throes of a squeeze executed by your opponent. But when partner is the perpetrator...

The auction could have come from a bridge primer. South had a balanced hand of 18 points with a stopper in every suit, facing an opening bid. The fun is in two no

trump described that hand perfectly and North had no ambitions beyond game. West led a spade, and declarer, inspired East's jack with the king. Declarer could count seven fast tricks, and that increased to eight when, at trick two, the queen of diamonds was covered by the king and taken with dummy's ace. A 5-3 split in clubs would give declarer the full-filling trick, but that was against the odds. Instead, declarer elected to exit with a spade. West won and cashed two more spade tricks, declarer discarding a club from dummy and a heart from hand. East parted with two hearts, and West was now just one step away from having to commit partner to the guillotine. Had West led another spade, East would have been able to delay the inevitable by discarding a diamond, but as soon as declarer played a diamond East would have to make a fatal snuff in either hearts or clubs. But West was a thoughtful partner. Putting the last spade in cold storage, the defender shifted to the ten of diamonds. Now there was no way for declarer to establish the full-filling trick.

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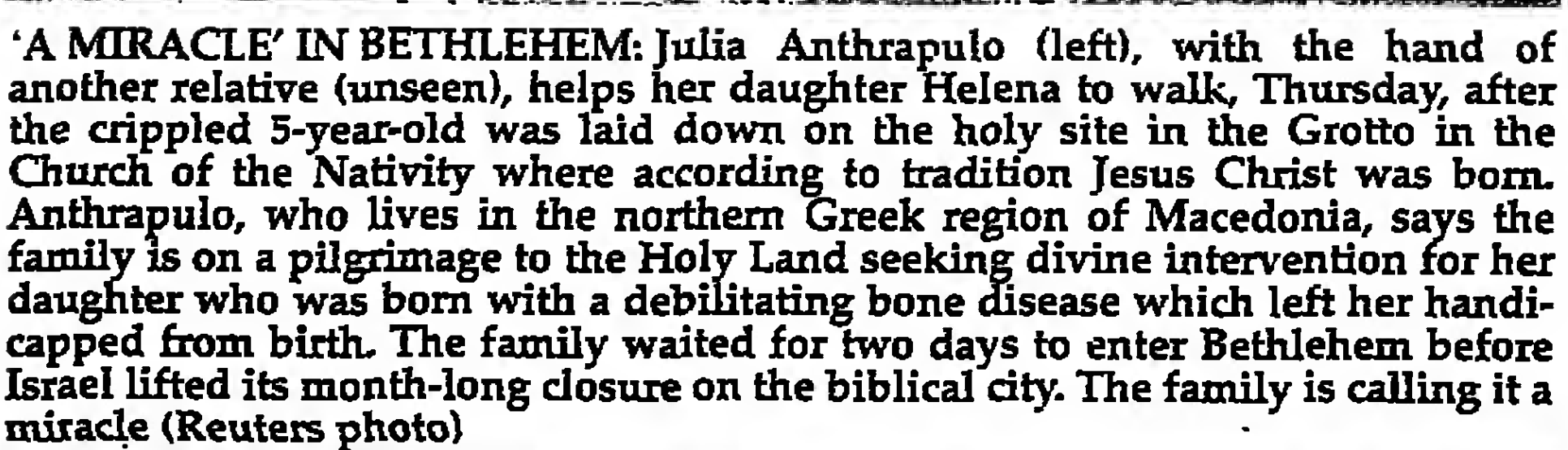
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JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — Sudanese rebel leader John Garang left his mediator hosts in South Africa Friday saying he was determined to end Islamic domination of the Sudan.

whose Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) has been fighting since 1983 to end Islamic domination of the Sudan.

Weekend peace talks organised by South Africa as a follow-up to IGAD initiatives are thus expected primarily to

**JOHANNESBURG (AFP)** — Sudanese rebel leader John Garang left his mediator hosts in South Africa Friday saying he was determined to cut no deals with the Khartoum military junta, which he dismissed as self-serving.

Colonel Garang, speaking at Johannesburg airport a day after talks with South African President Nelson Mandela, told reporters he would not talk to junta leader Omar Bashir except on the basis of 1994 peace principles.

He ruled out taking part in talks Mr. Mandela plans to host in Pretoria Sunday between General Bashir and his Ugandan counterpart Yoweri Museveni, whose governments accuse each other of supporting cross-border rebel groups.

Col. Garang said "at the present time, Gen. Bashir is interested to sell his internal agreement" — a deal the Islamic fundamentalist-backed general cut with splinter Sudanese rebel groups earlier this year.

"He needs a handshake from me. It is for his purpose," added Col. Garang, whose Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) has been fighting since 1983 to end Islamic domination of the mainly animist and Christian south.

The SPLA leader said he had urged Mr. Mandela "to appeal to Bashir to take the IGAD peace process seriously," referring to previous efforts undertaken by the east African Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), spearheaded by Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi.

In 1994, a tentative "declaration of principles" was achieved under IGAD auspices, providing for "self-determination for the people of southern Sudan and other marginalised land" in Africa's largest nation, Col. Garang pointed out.

He stated that "in order to maintain the unity of the country, there must be a suppression of the Islamic state," hinting at strict Islamic Sharia law imposed by successive Khartoum regimes.

But last July, General Bashir said in Nairobi that the 1994 IGAD "principles were not binding."

Weekend peace talks organised by South Africa as a follow-up to IGAD initiatives are thus expected primarily to tackle the strained Sudan-Uganda ties rather than the 14-year Sudanese civil war.

"We have separated the two issues" — relations between Khartoum and Kampala on the one hand and the war on the other — Col. Garang said Thursday after meeting Mr. Mandela.

Mr. Mandela then said he would chair a meeting in Pretoria involving only Gen. Bashir and Museveni, and that he had invited Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe, in his capacity as Organisation of African Unity chairman, to attend the summit.

"The meeting Sunday has nothing to do with bringing about peace in Sudan," Mr. Mandela said. "It relates only to relations between Uganda and Sudan."

Col. Garang Friday dismissed breakaway former allies as "factitious movements" and has claimed that Bashir's primary interest in southern Sudan lay in the oil reserves known to lie there.

**TEL AVIV (APF)—**Documents surfaced Wednesday casting doubt on the authenticity of an emotional reunion earlier this week between a Yemeni Jew and the mother from whom she was allegedly stolen 50 years ago in an adoption racket.

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Documents surfaced Wednesday casting doubt on the authenticity of an emotional reunion earlier this week between a Yemeni Jew and the mother from whom she was allegedly stolen 50 years ago in an adoption racket.

Tzila Levine, an Israeli now living in California, believed she had found her long lost mother Monday thanks to DNA tests purportedly showing a genetic link to Margalit Amosi.

But according to records published in the Israeli press Thursday, Levine was adopted in Israel several months before Amosi even immigrated to Israel as part of an airlift of some 43,000 Yemeni Jews in late 1949 and early 1950.

Levine arrived in Israel earlier this month bearing a letter from her adoptive Israeli mother acknowledging that she had been kidnapped from her real parents in 1949, several weeks after her birth.

Levine's reunion with her mother — which dominated Israeli newspapers and television news — was seen as dramatic evidence backing up claims by Yemeni activists that several thousand babies born to the new arrivals in 1949 and 1950 were stolen and put up for adoption by childless Israeli couples.

The documents released this week purport to show that Levine's adoption process took place between November 1948 and February 1949, before Amosi even arrived in the country in September 1949.

A district attorney investigating the stolen baby allegations also noted in interviews that Amosi herself says her missing daughter was already a year old when they arrived in Israel and disappeared six months later from a Tel Aviv hospital where she was being treated for an illness.

Levine dismissed the new evidence on Thursday, saying a radio interview, "I know I have found my family."

"This is a very deep feeling that goes even farther than the genetic tests, but I also know there are doubts and we must verify the documents," she said.

Levine's attorney, Rami Zuberi, said many documents concerning the Yemeni immigration include inaccurate dates and other information, due both to the often chaotic circumstances of the mass airlift and the backward circumstances in which many of the new arrivals had lived in Yemen.

He said other documents were deliberately falsified to hide the illegal adoption activities.

A commission looking into the alleged kidnapping of Yemeni babies plans to call in the expert who carried out the DNA tests on Levine and Amosi to testify and may seek new DNA tests, officials said.

TEL AVIV (R) — A former Israeli negotiator with Syria said on Thursday that Israel demands that Israel withdraw fully from the occupied territory, has vowed never to return any part of the Golan, captured

TEL AVIV (R) — A former Israeli negotiator with Syria said on Thursday that Israel agreed in principle more than three years ago to discuss pulling out from the Golan Heights in return for suitable peace and security arrangements.

Former chief negotiator Itamar Rabinovich confirmed in Israeli radio interviews a Haaretz daily report that the late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin laid out such negotiating terms in 1993-94 for then U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Rabin was assassinated by a right-wing Jew in 1995. He never vowed publicly how far he was willing to pull back from the Golan beyond saying the extent of Israel's withdrawal would match the depth of peace with Damascus.

Right-winger Benyamin Netanyahu, Israel's prime minister since June last year, has vowed never to return any part of the Golan, captured from Syria in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

On Thursday, he denied being bound by past discussions.

"There's no contractual system between Israel and Syria in connection with a peace agreement that obligates Israel. The United States also understands that and accepts it," he told Israel's army radio while on a visit to South Korea.

"Therefore the basic question isn't things which were discussed between various elements in the past but things which will be discussed," he said.

Israel's on-again, off-again talks with Syria last took place in early 1996. Talks have yet to resume under Mr. Netanyahu.

Damascus demands that Israel withdraw fully from the occupied territory.

Mr. Rabinovich said Syrian President Hafez Assad missed an opportunity with Rabin and his Labour Party successor Shimon Peres, both of whom were ready to make concessions in return for a suitable peace package.

"I believe Assad understands today that he could twice have made peace, not under the full terms he would have wanted, [but] under reasonable, acceptable conditions," Mr. Rabinovich said.

Haaretz said secret protocols of Rabin's talks showed that in 1994 he told Mr. Christopher he was ready to conduct negotiations on a withdrawal to the pre-war lines on condition he knew from the start that Mr. Assad was ready to accept his conditions for security arrangements and "real peace," including open borders and diplomatic relations.

The newspaper said these discussions were codenamed "pocket" because they remained in the figurative pocket of the U.S., the main Middle East broker. The Americans promised to raise the issue with Mr. Assad albeit not as an Israeli commitment. But Mr. Assad never accepted the negotiating formula.

"The things were formulated with a great deal of caution with a whole lot of conditions. I heard and was familiar with the things, let's say it that way. And because the things were formulated with a great deal of caution and a whole lot of conditions, from Assad's standpoint there was no agreement," Mr. Rabinovich said.

**SAN FRANCISCO (R)** — Thousands of people marched across San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge to protest a state law banning affirmative action programmes that took effect

**SAN FRANCISCO (R)** — Thousands of people marched across San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge to protest a state law banning affirmative action programmes that took effect Thursday.

Several thousand men, women and children from all over California walked peacefully across the elegant bridge under glistening blue skies to protest the controversial measure that was passed by state voters last November.

The law, also known as Proposition 209, took effect one week after a Federal Appeals Court in San Francisco affirmed its earlier ruling that the measure was constitutional.

Opponents planned to file papers soon with the U.S. Supreme Court seeking to block implementation of the law until the court decides whether to review the case.

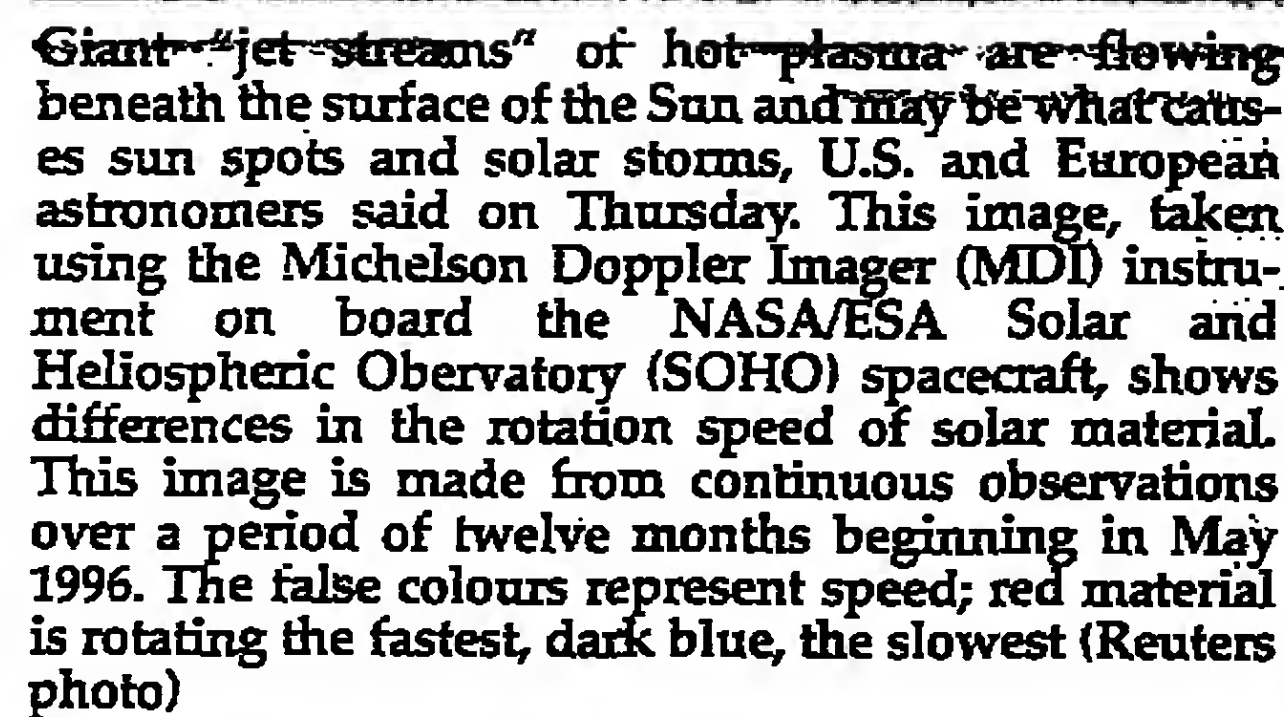
"Renew your commitment to make sure that equal opportunity is a reality, not only in the rest of the nation but also in the state that now represents the symbol of bigotry by virtue of the passage of Proposition 209," San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown urged the marchers before they set out.

The "Save the Dream" march was called by civil rights leader Rev. Jesse Jackson on the 34th anniversary of the huge 1963 "march on Washington" that culminated with the Rev. Martin Luther King's "I have a dream" speech about his hope for racial equality.

Rev. Jackson announced the march several weeks ago to protest the measure that

WASHINGTON (R) — Giant "jet streams" of hot plasma are flowing beneath the surface of the Sun and may be what causes Sun spots and solar storms, U.S. and European astronomers

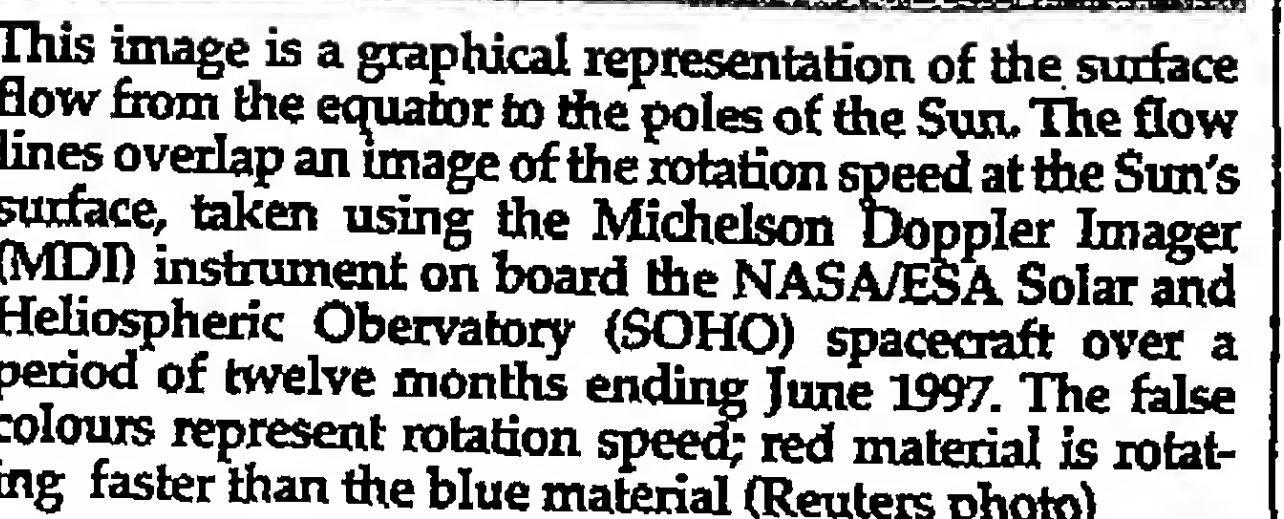
WASHINGTON (R) — Giant "jet streams" of hot plasma are flowing beneath the surface of the Sun and may be what causes Sun spots and solar storms, U.S. and European astronomers



**Giant "jet streams" of hot plasma are flowing beneath the surface of the Sun and may be what causes sun spots and solar storms, U.S. and European astronomers said on Thursday. This image, taken using the Michelson Doppler Imager (MDI) instrument on board the NASA/ESA Solar and Heliospheric Observatory (SOHO) spacecraft, shows differences in the rotation speed of solar material. This image is made from continuous observations over a period of twelve months beginning in May 1996. The false colours represent speed; red material is rotating the fastest, dark blue, the slowest (Reuters photo)**



In this image, the false colours represent the difference in speeds between various areas of the Sun; red and yellow is faster than average, blue is slower than average (Reuters photo)



This image is a graphical representation of the surface flow from the equator to the poles of the Sun. The flow lines overlap an image of the rotation speed at the Sun's surface, taken using the Michelson Doppler Imager (MDI) instrument on board the NASA/ESA Solar and Heliospheric Observatory (SOHO) spacecraft over a period of twelve months ending June 1997. The false colours represent rotation speed; red material is rotating faster than the blue material (Reuters photo).

LONDON (AFP)

LONDON (AFP)—British pop sensation Spice Girls are adding a practical dimension to their "Girl Power" philosophy with the launch of an official Spice deodorant. The body spray promises to deliver "girl power" evidence all day long "with a scent evocative of the five senses themselves." The spray includes whiffs of lavender and vanilla plus the recent Baby Spice Emancipation album's warm amber and red pepper for Ginger Spice, the jasmine and muguet for Posh Spice, Victoria's Secret geranium for Sporty Spice, Mel C and paduk wood for Scary Spice Mel B.

LONDON (AFP)

LONDON (AFP) — Divorced British royal Prince Andrew and his friend of six months have split up because his ex-girlfriend Sarah Ferguson kept interfering with the relationship, the British press reported Friday. "Ferguson has managed to scupper as she has with all his girlfriends," the Sun tabloid newspaper quoted an undisclosed friend of the prince. The 29-year-old brunet Hemiette Pearlman, who works as a researcher for the BBC, reportedly decided to leave Andrew after he joined his former wife on holiday in Funchal earlier this month, after promising to take Pearlman to Barbados.

LONDON (R) — The to

LONDON (R) — The top-selling Sun newspaper carried the front-page headline "Di's Legover" as British tabloids splashed more pictures of Princess Diana's latest holiday romance with Dodi Fayed. The photos showed Diana lifting a foot over the Egyptian's shoulder and clinging to him as they frolicked on a jet ski in the Mediterranean.

LONDON (AFP) — A

LONDON (AFP) — A British widow has given birth to her husband's daughter three years after his death, a London hospital disclosed Friday. The 7-year-old woman was made pregnant with a single sperm cell taken from her husband while he was still alive using a new technique. The husband, who died from a terminal illness, donated his sperm after giving his written consent for it to be used. His frozen and stored until his wife decided to try for a baby.

TOKYO (AP) — Already

OKYO (AP) — Already the world's longest-living people, Japanese men and women have set new records for life expectancy according to a government report released Friday. The average Japanese woman is expected to live 83.5 years, and men will probably live to be 77.01, said a report by the ministry of health and welfare. It is the longest life expectancy for any country in the world. The government says the trend will continue. It predicts that by 2010 Japanese women will make up 22 per cent of the population, exceeding the number of children by 50 per cent.

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PALESTINIAN delega  
will go to Washington  
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of State Madeleine  
Albright's visit to the Middle  
East next month, an aide of  
Jordan President Yasser  
Arafat said Saturday.  
There is a high level dele  
gation which will visit Wash  
ington before the arrival  
of State Albright in  
Jordan. Mr. Arafat's aide  
Abu Rudeina told  
France Presse.  
He did not specify the date  
of the visit or who would  
lead the trip.  
Albright is to leave the  
Jordan on September 9 for her  
official visit to the Mid  
East, to include Egypt,  
Jordan, Syria and  
Lebanon.  
The delegation aims "to  
achieve the proper positive  
sphere to ensure the  
success of Ms. Albright's  
visit," Mr. Rudeina said.  
The Prime Minister  
Netanyahu  
reached each other of failing  
to secure their commitments  
ahead of Ms.  
Albright's visit.  
A telephone discussion  
between Mr. Albright, Mr. Arafat  
and Israel of "not  
negotiating the accords with  
Palestinians," the Palesti  
news agency Wafa  
said late Friday.  
The meeting between the